

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



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FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 1846.

WITH SUPPLEMENT GRATIS. [SIXPENCE.]

THE MINISTERIAL POLICY.

TUESDAY last was an important epoch in the commercial history of Great Britain. It cannot so justly be called the beginning of a new era as that day in the session of 1842 on which Sir Robert Peel first acted on his present principles; but it has advanced another stage the progress of that policy which evidently be the basis of future legislation. In the career of Sir Robert Peel it is one of those occasions which, according as they are met, stamp the character that a statesman must bear in coming ages. At such a crisis, a Leader stakes the reputation gained by years of intense labour by diverging from an old path into one not quite untried, indeed, but which is still veiled in that mist which time alone can dissipate, and whose obscurity favours the formation of those enthusiastic hopes on the one side, and those terrors on the other, with which new regions and undeveloped policies are alike approached. Whether the decision the Premier has made will be considered either wise or bold, is doubtful; for he has himself acknowledged that his plan will "satisfy neither party." Why, then, propose it? Is it meant for rejection? It goes so far, that all Protectionists must oppose it; and it retains so much of the heaven of the old system, as to repel the Abolitionists from supporting it. It is, in fact, one of those middle courses of which Peel is so fond; it is a compromise which will be accepted by neither party. The Agriculturists will think that, having gone so far, the one step more, which would have settled the question for ever, might as well have been taken; since a very low duty, for so short a time as three years, is in effect no protection at all, while the compensations are but small and petty compared to their estimate of the injury they sustain.

This is the great defect of the plan; it will not settle the question. The Premier should either have done a little more, or stopped far short of doing so much. This, of course, applies only to the single question of the Corn-laws. The other parts of the plan are well digested, and give a considerable relaxation of restrictive and unproductive duties, on the principles announced in 1842. For the details, we refer the reader to our Supplement, in which we have given the Premier's statement fully and complete. As to the manner in which that statement was received, we cannot but regard it as somewhat ominous as to its success. Portions of it were loudly cheered, but it was exclusively by the Opposition. In the debate that followed, the preponderating feeling expressed was that of strong, even fierce condemnation, and that from some of the strongest adherents of the Ministry. No Leader of the Whigs gave any opinion on the plan whatever; the Members of the League were wholly silent, and it is not difficult to foresee that there is much in the Plan that they will oppose, and much left out of it that will excite still stronger denunciation. The Premier's prediction, we fear, will be amply verified—"It will satisfy neither party." Formal notice of opposition from the Ministerial benches is already given; opposition from the League may be yet to come. Monday week is waited for with great anxiety.

Any lengthened examination of the details of such a scheme may with advantage be deferred for the present; but a few remarks on the theory on which it is based may not improperly be introduced while those details are under consideration.

In the course of the debate we observe that the change was more than once called sudden and unexpected: many, even now, appear to be taken by surprise. They cannot have read the signs of the times for some years past with much attention. The whole history of the question shows a gradual approach to the present crisis. Like every great theory that has affected the policy and government of states, that of Free Trade has gone through the natural and inevitable stages of discussion, experiment, and application; the next link in the chain is its full development; at that we have not arrived, but the never "unmoving," though, sometimes, "slow," finger that traverses the circle of change is not far from the final point. To this idea, this theory, is irrevocably committed the destinies of the future.

Let us glance at the rise and progress of this commercial theory, which it is essential, although so much and so often treated as one of politics and party, to confine to what it really is—one of trade, commerce, and finance; one of means to ends; one of expedients applied to difficulties; it is a system that is dealt with, not a principle. A system may be changed, if the alteration is manifestly an improvement; a principle remains ever and always the same. Expediency may depart from, and, in so doing, violate it, but the principle itself remains unaffected by the change, and very often regains its lost ascendancy. Our commercial system, like that of most nations, has hitherto been one based upon protection to certain great interests, obtained by placing duties, other than those for

revenue, upon the produce of other countries, to prohibit or lessen importation. How has that system, the object of which, even if the means were erroneous, was certainly patriotic, been so shaken that in the opening of the year 1846, and under the most cautious, prudent and practical of Ministers, we see not only the "beginning of the end," but, in no very remote distance, the end itself?

It is a great error to suppose that the change of system is a policy framed, originated, or born of the League. Like all other theories, it has been very gradually accepted; but, having sank deep into public opinion, has at last found energetic advocates, and, "as streams their channels deeper wear," has acquired more recently a rapid momentum; a national necessity, finally presenting the declivity which has precipitated it so suddenly, that comparatively few look back to its spring and source, or the unnoted advance it made in more distant years.

For all practical purposes we need not trace the theory to any more remote origin than the writings of Adam Smith, because they appeared at the time the great manufacturing power of England was beginning to rise in that form which has since swelled to such gigantic dimensions, converting villages into thickly-peopled cities, whose hands must be occupied that their mouths may be fed. The facts and evidence from which that theory was deduced, must, of course, have been gathered from the ages preceding that of the writer, who first, or among the first, gave form and expression to it. Being broached, it gradually made its way, not rapidly, but through long years, even generations, of apparent neglect; still the seed was

sown, and in due time germinated. Its first fruits were the measures of Mr. Huskisson, which, compared with our present legislation, were as the timid steps of the child to the confident pace of the man; but he established the precedent, he broke through the barriers, and gave the first shock to the principle of Protection. His measures, limited as they were, nevertheless met with violent opposition, and were assailed with loud and frequent prophecies of ruin and destruction to all the interests affected by them. But time wore on, and neither the ruin nor the destruction came; men inquired more deeply into the question, upon which more light began to fall through the breaches made in the older system. The subsequent discussions of Protection were chiefly confined to the question of the Corn-laws, which the continual embarrassment and distress of the Landed Interest, as continually brought before the Legislature.

From the close of the war, down to the present time, the Law has been almost perpetually undergoing alteration, always with the object of securing a remunerative price to the grower, and at almost every change, lowering that standard of price, and diminishing the former amount of protection. The quantity of legislation that has been spent on this one subject since the beginning of the last century, would appear incredible to those who have not traced it through the records of Parliament. The failure of any plan was only followed by the proposal of another quite as complex, which again broke down beneath the pressure of circumstances; the Legislature, in its anxiety to secure agriculture from the competi-



THE RIGHT HON. SIR ROBERT PEEL, BART.—SKETCHED IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, ON TUESDAY LAST.—(SEE SUPPLEMENT.)

tion of the distant foreigner, looked the effect of competition of county with county at home, which, in years of abundance, frequently produced a fall in prices far below the standard the Law was enacted to preserve. But it was long before the confidence of statesmen in the system was shaken; men who recognised Protection as an erroneous system when applied to manufactures, believed corn, as food, to be an exception; and it is certain that the earnestness with which the Corn-laws were, and are, supported, proceeded from a sincere conviction that they are the best and only means of furnishing the people with an abundant and regular supply of provisions. The sweeping charge of selfishness that has been so often brought against its advocates we firmly believe to be an unjust one. On the same ground they are supported now—as may be seen from the speech of Mr. Liddell, on Tuesday evening. No men, or set of men, could venture to defend any system of laws by the bare avowal that they personally gained by it. It is the belief that they really are good and wise in themselves, joined to fears of the consequences of parting with them, that makes the defence so formidable. To the mind that sees millions of acres abandoned to weeds and barrenness, and thousands of men deprived of employment, as the result of relinquishing them, the prospect is appalling enough; and men, who, on other branches of commercial policy, were in advance of their time—men like Mr. Huskisson and Sir H. Parnell—were strong advocates of a restricted importation of Corn. The difficulty of escaping from the convictions formed during a whole life is excessive: thus it is that generations pass ere an opinion begins to influence the policies that govern mankind.

Passing over all the changes which it was found requisite to make in the law of 1815, and as summarily dismissing the proposal of a Fixed Duty by the Whigs, when they were utterly powerless, and unable to carry anything, we come to the year 1842, and that commencement of the policy of relaxation by which it was distinguished. Those who call the present change sudden and unexpected must have forgotten much that took place in the memorable debates of that and the subsequent years. All the other changes had been only variations of the system; this was accompanied by a departure from it. As to Corn, protection was diminished; as to other articles, prohibitive duties were abolished, and protective duties relaxed. Whether, during that sad period of commercial depression and national distress, which darkened the decline and fall of the Whig Government, and continued during the two first years of that which succeeded it, the Premier had studied more deeply the causes of such vicissitudes, and thus been led to modify some former opinions, or at least to doubt their soundness, cannot be known; certain it is, his measures were the beginning of a freer policy. His speeches, then and afterwards, are now remarkable for the many passages they contain, in which he intimated future advances in the same direction; and it is impossible to doubt but that he then contemplated doing so, should his partial experiment answer his expectations. Guarded concessions of the abstract truth of the theory of Free-Trade—defences of departures from it only on the ground that they could be proved to be for the benefit of the whole community—expositions of the theory that high duties often defeat their object, and diminish the revenue—refusals to declare that agriculture should be exempted from the operation of the principles applied to other branches of industry—all these and more may be found in the speeches of Sir Robert Peel between 1842 and 1845. "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." Some of his party took alarm, and became suspicious; but on many of them, even now, the present plan has come like an unexpected shock. To us it seems that Sir Robert Peel but continues the work he then began; and he avows that it is the success of that partial experiment which induces him to carry it still further. The great change must have taken place before 1842; it is not wholly the result of the circumstances of the past autumn. That he did not so openly avow that change, or at so early a period as could be wished, must be allowed. To his personal influence that silence will be injurious; between him and his party that reserve—perhaps the harsher name of equivocation might be used—may be a subject of reproach; but if the policy increases the welfare of the people at large, they will readily pardon the departure from consistency which has attended its adoption. If rulers were inexorably barred from all change of measures or opinion—were to be bound in perpetuity by declarations made in imperfect knowledge to persist in courses shown by after experience to be wrong—all government would become impossible. But we have touched upon this question elsewhere.

For the Plan itself, we may shortly state that it generally resembles that of 1842; like that, it deals with the two great articles—Corn and Timber; but now, instead of a mere lessening of protection on the first, a prospective abolition of it is proposed; as to the second, it seems that the duty is to be gradually reduced, the process to be spread over a number of years. There is again a total abolition of duties on some kinds of produce, on cattle, and fresh and salt provisions; and a partial reduction of duties upon others. Among those articles on which the duties are to be totally abolished are coarse linens, woollens, and cottons; this is to prove that there shall be strict impartiality between "Tyrian and Trojan;" had manufacturing protection remained untouched, the agriculturists would have complained of unfair dealing; and it besides serves as a test of the sincerity of the declarations of the Free-Traders that they are for Free-Trade in all things.

As to the articles on which the duties are merely reduced, no new principle is propounded; their increased consumption at the lower rate, it is expected, as in other cases, will make up the revenue in the course of time. The reductions on Silks and Brandy are the most important, and may serve to show France that no national jealousies have excluded her products; the same may be said of the insertion in this list of Hats, Boots, and Ribbons.

But the present plan includes something which the last did not—a series of what are called compensations to the Landed Interest. These are—a saving of the highway-rates, by putting the roads under the control of district boards, instead of leaving them to each separate parish—a relief of the county rates from the expense of maintaining prisoners in gaol, and of prosecutions—a part payment by the Government of the medical officers and schoolmasters of Unions—a change in the Law of Settlement, which will prevent many paupers from being removed from manufacturing towns to rural districts—and the establishment of a system of loans by the

Treasury, on security, to the proprietors of entailed estates, destitute of capital, for the purpose of improving their land. All these changes—with the exception of the last—will be partial public benefits, and we do not anticipate much opposition to them; but the beginning the loan system will, we fear, be mischievous; the scandalous jobbing and profligacy that have been created in Ireland by a similar system, ought to warn us how we establish it here, unless accompanied with the most rigorous restrictions, and summary powers of recovering the amount.

The abolition of the duties on Indian Corn, Maize, and Oil-cake will be of some advantage to the agriculturists. The change is based on the same principle on which other duties have been abolished on imported produce. These articles may be considered as the raw materials of the farmer's manufacture; they create no competition and afford him additional means of feeding stock. On the whole, the plan is a bold one for a Minister in Sir Robert Peel's position, as it fixes the day on which the Corn-laws are to cease and determine. But it is not complete or satisfactory; it has too much of the middle course about it. The Protectionists cannot support it; the extreme among the Free-Traders will not, as they are pledged against any compromise. If, from both sides of the House, moderate men enough can be found to carry it against the ultras of each party, still it is almost hopeless that the Lords will agree to it. Then comes the dissolution, and on the verdict of the people at large will the settlement of the great question depend.

PEEL AND THE TARIFF.

I.

To do his duty was to every man
Our Nelson's mandate, and he was no juggler;
To "do the duty," on the other hand,
Is ever the ambition of the Smuggler.
Peel, if as Nelson bold, as smuggler 'cute, is,
For it is certain he has done the duties!

II.

Such a repealing!—Peel is a Repealer
More than O'Connell, in the literal sense;
Expediency persuades him to the mood,
And then his resolution is intense!
Even Government cannot avoid his nabbing it,
For when he re-took he re-Peel'd the Cabinet!

III.

Off with the duties! Going! going! going!
Peel strikes the hammer, and behold them gone!
The Premier's look, too, is so very knowing,
As foes and farmers he looks down upon!
He seems to say—Free-Trade is my election,
You are beneath and I'm above Protection.

IV.

'Tis a tremendous Tariff he has brought
To give the Nation's brains a week of suction,
To common sense reduce it as you ought,
And still you won't reduce its great reduction!
Again Peel shouts, "I've got you all, my beauties;
I've done my duty—and I've done the duties!"

V.

If Juries seek his shop, as Juries do
Seek other shops through England and through Wales,
They'll bring his measures under their review;
Accuse him, p'raps, of having sliding scales!
Then make a bow, declaring for the State
That all his measures have uncommon weight!

VI.

Corn-Law is sold, and almost out of bin:
At its condition now the people laugh;
They'll make their Cheap-bread Champions bring it in:
Peel's double-thrashed it all and kept the chaff!
Three years it pines, enfeebled with fatigue,
Then breathes its last to Bobby and the League!

VII.

Sugar's to go—not in the lump indeed,
But something will be taken off "tout-sweet!"
Rice and a thousand little things we need;
And Brandy will be cheaper—that's a treat!
There's hardly a domestic thing one handles
That will not fall—including Soap and Candles!

VIII.

Butter—the duty is to come off pat!
We dare to pound it, that will suit us all.
For something cheap you'll get a Paris hat;
And Foreign boots and shoes too will sing small—
Tanners will save some tanners on their hides—
And there is lots of pleasant news besides.

IX.

Silk! O ye wives and daughters, look alive—
Hurrah for bonnets and for gowns galore!
PEEL is a popular man—with him you thrive:
RUSSELL to Silk would never ope the door:
Dresses that set uneasy round the bustle,
Will wonder how they condescend to Russell!

X.

In Carriage sit—on Brussels Carpet tread—
Oh wealthy fair! at half your former cost.
Adorn the person—decorate the head;
Sing, "All is Gain'd!" instead of, "All is Lost!"
Turn on Protection your indignant heel,
And dance into the arms of Premier Peel!

XI.

My patient pauper, too, rejoice—even thou,
Tho' we admit you are not very fat,
You've only had a parish until now,
Now you've a settlement—remember that
Henceforth of workhouse you will have less knowledge,
And Government shall send your babes to college!

XII.

Glad rich! glad poor! cheap brandy and cheap bread!
Shoes, boots, and butter—hats, and soap, and cheese
Are thine henceforth! Is Gratitude gone dead?
Gods! that they should not shout for such as these;
But crow they must—they will—they can—they do!
PEEL AND THE TARIFF—COCK-A-DOODLE-DO!

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The Paris Papers, of course, devote considerable space, as well as attention, to her Majesty's speech from the throne, which was received in Paris by express at an early hour on Friday (last week). The papers, generally, speak in favourable terms of it. The *Débats* approves highly of that portion of it in which further reforms in the Custom-house Tariff are announced. It expresses its admiration of the doctrines of Free-Trade, and says that the Queen of England is quite correct in stating that the repeal of the prohibitive laws and the reduction of protective duties within the last few years have been sufficiently justified by the increase in trade and consumption. The *Débats* adds that the English Cabinet is evidently influenced by the consideration that a Government, in its commercial relations with other countries, should look only at the revenue, and not make laws to protect this or that branch of industry.

The debates in the Chamber of Deputies on the Address drag their slow length along, and are actually not yet concluded, although it is at least a fortnight since the session was opened. They certainly do not order these things better in France. To the paragraph respecting railways, M. Grandin moved the following amendment:—"The Chamber has beheld with grief the abuses which have taken place relative to railway transactions, and hopes that your Majesty's Government will adopt such measures as may be necessary to prevent their recurrence." After a long discussion, the amendment was rejected by a majority of 49, the numbers being—for the amendment 160, against it 209. M. Darblay then gave notice of another amendment, nearly similar to that of M. Grandin.

The *Journal des Chemins de Fer* publishes the following letter, addressed to it by Messrs. Mackenzie and Brassey, the contractors for the Rouen and Havre Railroad, on the subject of the accident to the viaduct of Barentin:—"We beg to inform you that we accept the entire responsibility of the accident, and intend to proceed with the re-construction as soon as possible. Although we are not able to account exactly for the cause of the accident, we think it may be traced to the foundations of the piles, which, instead of being made of brick, as was intended in the original plan, were of stone, with the approbation of Mr. Locke. This change had been applied for by us, with a view of advancing the works, and fulfilling the engagements that we had entered into with the Company." The same paper, alluding to the reports about a falling in of a portion of the tunnel of Harfleur, says:—"The heavy rain in the night of the 22nd had undermined the ground of the road for a length of about four metres. At ten in the morning the repairs were finished, and the circulation was never interrupted for an instant."

SPAIN.

Considerable excitement prevails in Madrid upon the subject of the proposed marriage of the Queen with Count Trappani. Indeed, the aspect of affairs almost indicates a coming revolution. It seems that about forty of the Ministerial members had agreed to forward a remonstrance to the Government against the marriage, but not more than ten had remained firm to their original purpose. These forty members had believed that Ministers, or at least a majority of them, would not be displeased at such a manifestation. They were, however, disappointed. The Ministers declared that they would give no explanation on the subject, and Narvaez added, that if the Chamber showed any manifestation of opposition, he would dissolve it. A Cabinet Council was held on the subject on the 20th inst., and it was decided that the threat of Narvaez should be carried into effect if the deputies persevered in their intention.

It is supposed that the marriage, though quite determined on, will not take place for some time yet.

The Madrid papers mention the death of a former distinguished Minister, Don José Calatrava, who, after the late Augustin Arguelles, was one of the most prominent and influential of the old Progressista party. Don José Maria Calatrava, who had been in a declining state for some time, and who laboured under a complication of mental and bodily sufferings, expired suddenly, and the corpse was conveyed for interment to the cemetery of San Nicholas, situated half a mile outside the gate Atocha. He was in the 66th year of his age. The latter years of Senor Calatrava's life were passed in strict retirement.

PORTUGAL.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Lisbon, Jan. 10.

The weather here is magnificent—a summer at New Year's Day! The opening of the Cortes on the 2d inst. was a scene of great splendour. The Queen and the Empress of Brazil exhibited their usual contrast of appearance—the former being simply attired, and the latter a blaze of diamonds; the former twenty stone, and the latter eight stone weight! The King, with his father, Duke Ferdinand, and his brother, Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, a prominent aspirant to the hand of the Queen of Spain, appeared in very splendid uniforms; and the Ministers wore robes of ermine and brilliant stars, with which their mean physiognomies absurdly contrasted.

One of the most extraordinary musicians in Europe is now performing, nightly, at the Café de Bernardo, on the Caes do Sodré. He may be called the Guitarist Paganini. He is blind, but his physiognomy bears a striking resemblance to the magical violinist, especially in profile. His hair is likewise worn with the same wild redundancy. His enthusiasm and depth of feeling, during performance, make his countenance appear beautiful, though naturally almost ugly, and deeply pitted with the small-pox. He executes, without omitting a single passage, the overtures and favourite *morceaux* from all the leading operas. He can also dwell upon the notes, and make them "weep," as it is termed, in performing an aria, better, probably, than any player in existence, and has pushed the powers of this limited instrument to a degree of cultivation unprecedented. He is a native of Lisbon, and was precluded from his birth from reading a note of music.

Horse-racing, upon a small scale, has been recently introduced here at Campo Grande, but with little success.

No poem of modern times has produced a greater sensation than Mr. Hughes' "Ocean Flower," which the inhabitants of Madeira, where the scene is laid, have received with enthusiastic ardour. The local journals teem with sonnets and "tributes of admiration" to the author; substantive poems of commendation have likewise been separately issued, the most striking of which is by the French Consul. The Municipal Chamber of Funchal has met to record its sense of the accuracy and beauty with which the magnificent scenery of the island, its chivalrous history and legends, have been described both in the prose and poetical portions of the work; and an address of thanks from the Municipality, conceived in terms of the most exalted praise, has been forwarded to the author. But the enthusiasm did not reach its height, until the principal island newspaper, the *Imparcial*, on the 13th December, appeared, under the extraordinary circumstances of devoting its entire space, sixteen columns, with the exception of about twenty lines, to editorial notices and poems eulogistic of this work.

Since the receipt of the above, Lisbon letters to the 22nd inst. have reached us. The discussion on the reports of the committees about the elections had continued to the day the packet sailed, and was likely to last for some days longer. The minority threatens to secede from the Chambers, after signing a protest. The financial state of the country shows no improvement. The Government was using every exertion to raise money. The *Confiança* National, it is expected, will lend them as much as will relieve urgent claims.

THE UNITED STATES.

We have New York papers to the 8th inst., by the packet ship, *Henry Clay*. The news by them is important, inasmuch as it appears that there have been some further fiery discussions about the Oregon territory. No less a personage than Mr. John Quincy Adams, a former President of the United States, has taken the field in opposition to England. On the 3rd inst., W. C. J. Ingersoll, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, addressed the House of Representatives on the Oregon question, in the course of which he observed that that territory was worth a war; he repudiated the idea of surrendering the north of the 49th parallel, as by doing so, they would lose the best half of that magnificent territory, and concluded his oration by declaring that he was for no war for Oregon if it could be avoided; if not, no peace while England has an inch of ground on American soil. Mr. Winthrop followed Mr. Ingersoll, and advocated, in able and energetic terms, the principles propounded in the resolutions he brought before the House on a former occasion. It seemed to him that it was a contest between two nations, for a territory to which neither had any exclusive right, and for which they were such savages as to go to war. The Committee on Foreign Relations have, by a very small majority, agreed to recommend the President to give notice of the termination of joint occupancy. The minority have reported their opinions on the subject to the House. Not content with having absorbed Texas, and making an effort to procure California, some of the American citizens have taken it into their heads to submit resolutions for the annexation of Ireland! No action was taken upon them, but they were read from the clerks.

Mr. Adams, in the course of his speech, said, "I am ready to give notice to Great Britain that we mean to terminate the treaty between us, and at the end of twelve months I am ready to take possession of the territory." War, he repeated, need not follow from the notice, or from occupation; they could negotiate still; and his belief was, he repeated again and again, that war would not be the consequence of the notice. But, if war came, he was sure that it would soon be terminated, and terminated in a manner for ever to prevent England from interfering with the United States.

Mr. Adams's speech created great sensation in the House, and the New Yorkers are anything but cooled down in consequence of it.

By this arrival we have details of another steam-boat disaster, and, as usual in America, attended with frightful loss of life. The steamer *Belle Zane*, while on her way from Zanesville, Ohio, to New Orleans, struck a snag about twelve miles below the mouth of White River, on the Mississippi, and immediately turned bottom up. It was about twelve o'clock of the 18th December when the accident occurred, and the night was bitter cold. Out of some 90 souls on board at the time upwards of 50 perished. A steamer named the *Diamond* came along a short time after the accident, and the officers picked up 16 of the passengers.

ALLEGED RESIGNATIONS.—The *Morning Post* contains reports of various alleged resignations of individuals, chiefly connected with the Household. It is right to add, however, that we have not seen any confirmation of these rumours. Among other resignations mentioned are those of the Marquis of Granby, Lord in Waiting to Prince Albert; and of the Earl of Hardwicke, Lord of the Bedchamber; also that of the Marquis of Exeter, Groom of the Stole to Prince Albert. Our contemporary states that Lord Arthur Lennox has resigned the office of Clerk of the Ordinance, and that Sir Thomas Fremantle, the Secretary for Ireland, has been appointed Chairman of the Commissioners of Customs.

INCREASE OF THE ARMY.—It is currently rumoured in military circles that the army will be increased 14,000 men, by the addition of two companies to each infantry and two troops to each cavalry regiment. Three commissioned officers, a captain, and two subalterns will be appointed to each of these companies and troops.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

[The proceedings in the Houses of Lords and Commons on Monday and Tuesday, will be found in the Supplement.]

HOUSE OF COMMONS—WEDNESDAY.

The House met to-day at twelve o'clock, in pursuance of the arrangement which had been made.

RETURN OF MR. O'CONNELL.—At about a quarter-past twelve Mr. O'Connell entered the House, and shook hands with most of the members on the Opposition side of the House, who received him with great cordiality.

AMENDMENT TO SIR ROBERT PEEL'S NEW PLAN.—MR. COLQUHOUN gave notice that on the motion for the House to resolve into Committee on the Customs and Corn Importation Acts, he should move an amendment.

RAILWAY COMMITTEES.—MR. GIBSON moved some resolutions for amending the proceedings of Committees on Standing Orders on Railway Bills. The hon. gentleman explained the objects which he had in view, the principal of which were to allow a direct reference to the House from sub-committees in certain cases, and to allow parties to be heard by Counsel before the Committee on Standing Orders upon points referred to them. He wished also to put an end to the system of secrecy which was at present observed in the Standing Orders Committee.—Lord G. SOMERSET opposed the propositions, which he apprehended would lead to increased delay and expense.—MR. STURTT also opposed the resolutions, which were negatived without a division.

PUBLIC WORKS IN IRELAND.—SIR T. FREMANTLE then moved the second reading of the Public Works (Ireland) Bill.—MR. HUME said that he had looked carefully over the bill, and he found great difficulty in arriving clearly at its meaning. It would have been better to bring in a bill to repeal former acts, and re-enact the necessary provisions of them in one bill.—SIR T. FREMANTLE said that he perfectly concurred with the general observations of the hon. Member for Montrose, as regarded general alterations in the law; but these observations did not apply to the present bill. ("Hear, hear," from Mr. O'Connell.) The object of this bill was merely to give an additional grant of £50,000 for the construction of public works in Ireland.—MR. O'CONNELL said that the observations of his hon. friend the Member for Montrose would apply only to permanent laws—laws which were intended to be perpetual. This, however, was not intended to be a permanent law of that nature, as it was a particular act of Parliament to regulate the expenditure of a particular sum of money, of a very limited extent he would say, and too small a sum for the purpose which it was proposed to effect by it. ("Hear, hear," from several Irish members.) He (Mr. O'Connell) would not oppose the bill—on the contrary, he would support it; but under the protest that the Government should not, by the introduction of the bill, be entitled to hold themselves discharged from the duty of providing against the distress which was to be expected in Ireland in a very short period. This bill was a small instalment of that relief for which the condition of Ireland was crying out. It was impossible to exaggerate the state of things produced in Ireland by the failure of the potato crop. Indeed, it was not too much to say that within three or four weeks a great portion of the population might be in a state of actual famine, if measures were not speedily adopted to avert that calamity. (Hear, hear.)—After some further discussion, the motion was agreed to, and the House adjourned soon after two o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

THE CORN-LAWS.—Lord ASHBURTON presented petitions from Surrey and other parts, in favour of agricultural protection.—The Duke of Richmond presented similar petitions from Sussex, and also complaining of the unconstitutional proceedings of the League. The comprehensive scheme (as it was called) in another place was strongly repudiated by the individuals who signed these petitions. They considered that the men who were about to violate their pledges should resign their seats. He perfectly agreed with them, and denied that there was any ground for repealing the Corn-laws. He trusted that the House would throw out the bill, and thus give the country the opportunity of giving an opinion upon the bill. The very men who now supported the measure at the last election voted against the 8s. duty. The men who now opposed such a measure were not those who had been bribed by the League.—Lord KINNARD defended the League, and said he was a member of it. It was extraordinary to hear an individual who belonged to a society which did the very same thing as the League, come forward and accuse that body of bribery. These same people created fictitious votes in Scotland. Men who live in glass houses should not throw stones. It was a Chartist doctrine to say that the House of Commons should not be tried first. The people of England would not submit to the continuance of the Poor-Law.

EARL GREY said he regarded the measure in the other House with great satisfaction. He wished it had gone further, and that the whole thing had been proposed at once. He pronounced the modified sliding scale as a mere mockery (Hear.) He therefore could not understand upon what grounds it could be recommended. As a landowner he was afraid that the interval would dangerously prolong the evils with which a state of transition in commercial matters was always attended, and it would be difficult for landlords and tenants to come to an arrangement.—Lord ASHBURTON feared that neither the Government nor the House would ever be able to carry out the principles of Free-Trade, as advocated by the Noble Earl, in a country placed in such a complicated position as this country was placed in. After some observations from Lord MONTAGUE and Lord ASHBURTON, the subject dropped.

RAILWAY BUSINESS.—The Earl of DALHOUSIE then rose to submit to their Lordships the plan which he proposed should be adopted with regard to Railway Bills.—Several Peers joined in the discussion that followed.—Lord BROGHAM made some severe remarks on the general principles in which the business of the Railway Committees was conducted.—No opposition, however, was made to the motion, which was agreed to, and their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

Many petitions were presented, chiefly on the subject of the Corn-laws. THE GAME-LAWS.—MR. BRIGHT gave notice that, on Monday next, he would move the appointment of the committee on the Game-laws.

THE MILITIA.—MR. DUNCOMBE said that a good deal of excitement and alarm existed as to the calling out of the militia in October next, and a great many clubs were formed in the country in consequence, and he was desirous of learning from the right hon. Baronet (Sir J. Graham) if it was his intention to introduce a new bill to regulate it.—SIR J. GRAHAM said that it was to be proposed that power should be given to her Majesty in Council to call out the militia on a fortnight's notice, if her Majesty's servants should deem that measure called for.

RAILWAY DEPOSITS.—MR. HASTIE said that he had to complain of the manner in which the railway deposits, amounting, he believed, this year to from eight to ten millions, were proposed to be paid into the hands of the Accountant-General of the Court of Chancery, and the delay which would take place before they were paid by him into the Bank of England, and the serious effect which that delay would produce on the commercial and monetary system of the country. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that he deplored as much as any man the difficulties which might be entailed on innocent persons, in consequence of the extensive railway speculations which had engrossed the country; but he did not see that any alteration of the present law and orders of the House was called for or would be judicious. MR. HUDSON said that the deposits were called for to secure the due execution of the works if the bills were passed; and he thought that security could be obtained as effectually by a cheque bill, or other good securities, were lodged instead of specie. (Cheers.) SIR R. PEEL said he fully concurred in opinion with the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

FACTORY BILL.—Lord ASHLEY then moved for leave to bring in a bill to reduce the hours of working of young persons in factories to ten hours in the day. He prefaced his motion with a long address, containing numerous references to evidence taken on this question.—MR. ROEBUCK declared against any legislative interference with labour, and charged the noble Lord with acting from false and mock humanity.—The motion was supported by Mr. Fielden, Mr. Wakley, and Mr. Newdegate, and leave was given to bring in the bill.

The remaining business was unimportant, and the House adjourned at a quarter past ten.

COURT AND HAUT TON.

HER MAJESTY AND THE ROYAL FAMILY.—Her Majesty and the Royal Family are now residing at Buckingham Palace, and we are happy to say, are in the enjoyment of the best health. On Wednesday, the Queen and Prince Albert took a drive in an open barouche and four. Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, the Princess Royal, and the Princess Alice were taken an airing in a carriage. His Royal Highness Prince Albert rode out on horseback, attended by Colonel Bouverie. The Marchioness of Douro has succeeded the Viscountess Jocelyn as the Lady in Waiting to the Queen. The Earl of Morton has succeeded the Marquis of Ormonde as the Lord in Waiting to her Majesty, and Major-General Sir Frederic Stovin has succeeded Admiral Sir Robert Orway as Groom in Waiting to the Queen.

WINDSOR, Thursday Evening.—(From our own Correspondent.)—Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, attended by Lady Fanny Howard, returned to Frogmore House, yesterday evening, at six o'clock, from Buckingham Palace, where her Royal Highness had proceeded in the morning to pay a visit to her Majesty and the Prince Consort. Her Royal Highness will leave for Clarence House, St. James's, for the season, on Tuesday evening.

RETURN OF THE DUCHESS OF CAMBRIDGE.—We have pleasure in announcing the return of her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge to this country on Monday last, after an absence on the Continent of several months.

THE ADDRESSES OF BOTH HOUSES TO HER MAJESTY.—On Saturday last, the Lord Chancellor and several Peers and the Speaker, accompanied by many members of the House of Commons, presented the addresses respectively voted by both Houses to her Majesty, to which her Majesty returned gracious answers, which will be found in our Parliamentary report.

MINISTERIAL DINNER.—The Duke of Buccleuch, Lord President of the Council, gave a grand dinner on Wednesday evening, at Montagu-house, Whitehall-gardens, to all the members of the Cabinet, and the Great Officers of State of the Queen's Household, and also the Clerks of the Queen's Most Honourable Privy Council. At the meeting the roll of Sheriffs for the present year were settled, previous to its being picked by her Majesty in Council.

ARISTOCRATIC MARRIAGE.—On Monday last, at Wakefield, Northamptonshire, the Hon. Lieut.-Colonel Douglas Pennant, M.P. for Carnarvonshire, was married to Lady Louisa Fitzroy, youngest daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Grafton.

ENTERTAINMENT TO THE EARL OF HADDINGTON.—The Earl of Haddington was entertained at dinner on Wednesday evening, by the members of the Royal Naval Club, upon the occasion of his retirement from the direction of the Admiralty. The Earl of Hardwicke occupied the chair, Sir Charles Napier and Sir T. F. Pellew officiating as vice-chairmen. Covers were laid for seventy, and among the officers present were Sir E. Codrington, Sir C. Ogle, Sir E. Tucker, Sir G. Cockburn, Sir E. D. King, Sir W. Gage, H. Hill, Sir C. Malcolm, Sir J. Gordon, the Earl of Egmont, Viscount Ingestre, Lord A. Fitzclarence, Lord E. Russell, &c.

CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &c.

CAMBRIDGE.

Jan. 28.

At a Congregation held this day the following degrees were conferred:—
Honorary Masters of Art.—Hon. Charles Edward Peeps, Trinity College; Hon. Delaval Loftus Astley, Trinity College; Hon. Douglas Gordon, Trinity College.

Ad Eundem.—John Edmund Fox, M.A., All Souls, Oxford.

Bachelors of Art.—Edmund Edward Allen, Trinity College; William Henry Tyrell, Trinity College; George Edward Haviland, St. John's College; Decimus Drew, Sidney College.

Bachelor of Law.—Rev. Henry Philip Marsham, Trinity Hall.

* Eldest son of Lord Cottenham. † Second son of Lord Hastings.

‡ Third son of Lord Aberdeen.

THE RECTORY OF LAMBETH.—The Archbishop of Canterbury has nominated the Rev. Charles Brown Dalton, one of the Bishop of London's chaplains, to the rectory of St. Mary's, Lambeth, vacant by the demise of the Rev. Dr. D'Oyley. Mr. Dalton was formerly of Wadham College, Oxford, and has up to the present time been reader of Lincoln's-inn. The rev. gentleman was some weeks since married to the eldest daughter of the Bishop of London.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

VALIDITY OF THE SALE OF RAILWAY SCRIP.—In the Court of EXCHEQUER, on Monday, a case was tried, Young v. Smith, in which the plaintiff obtained a verdict, the result of which was that the sale of railway scrip is declared legal. The Judges (the Lord Chief Baron, Baron Alderson, and Baron Platt), gave their opinion that the Joint Stock Act of last Session does not apply to Railway Companies.

THE CASE OF LORD HUNTINGTOWER.—In the Court of BANKRUPTCY on Tuesday an application was made by Mr. Cooke on behalf of Lord Huntingtower, for the purpose of granting him protection, as he had already been six months subjected to the annoyance of very noisy claimants. The learned Commissioner (Fonblaque) said he was fully aware of all the circumstances connected with this painful case. He had no wish unnecessarily to punish Lord Huntingtower, but he could not entertain any application like the present until the expiration of the next six months.

POLICE.

A SOLICITOR CHARGED WITH FORGERY.—At Bow-street on Wednesday, Edward Bryant Gearey, who for many years has been considered a very respectable solicitor in Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, was remanded on a charge of having forged a document, purporting to be an office copy of the Accountant-General's certificate, of the receipt of £2,596 17s. 6d., with intent to defraud the Accountant-General, or other parties named.

A MAN CHARGED WITH CUTTING HIS WIFE'S THROAT.—At Lambeth-office on Monday Mr. Frederick Minton, a respectable master tailor, residing at 3, Harleyford-terrace, Penton-place, Newington, was remanded on a charge of wilfully cutting the throat of Janna, his wife, with intent to murder her.

COUNTRY NEWS.

OPENING OF THE NORWICH GOVERNMENT SCHOOL OF DESIGN.—The formal opening of this institution took place last week. The rooms appropriated for the use of the students are a portion of the building in St. Andrew's, formerly erected for a bazaar, and are well adapted for the purpose. On this occasion they were filled with a highly respectable assembly. Sir John Boileau delivered an opening address.

ELECTION FOR THE WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.—The nomination of a candidate or candidates for the representation of this riding, in the place of the present Lord Wharfedale, has been officially announced for Wednesday next, the 4th of February. Not the slightest excitement is manifested in any part of the riding, although, the addresses of Mr. W. Busfield Ferrand (on behalf of the Hon. Edwin Lascelles) and Mr. Archer Garney have been before the public for some days.

SUSSEX ELECTIONS.—A special County Court is to be held at Lewes, on Tuesday next, the 3d February, for the purpose of electing a member to represent the Eastern division of the county, in the room of Mr. Darby. There is no whisper of opposition to Mr. Frewen. At Midhurst, it is said a Mr. Walpole will be returned without opposition.

NEWARK ELECTION.—Mr. Stuart, Q.C., was on Thursday elected for the borough of Newark, in the room of Mr. Gladstone, who declined to offer himself again as a candidate.

THE MILITIA.—On Friday evening, a public meeting, at which there were upwards of a thousand persons present, was held at Chatham, for the purpose of taking into consideration the best means of protesting against the proposed enrolment of the militia. The greatest unanimity prevailed, and very strong feelings were manifested on the part of the audience against the proposed measure. A petition to the House of Commons, embodying these sentiments, was agreed to, and has already obtained numerous signatures.

MEETING AT GLOUCESTER AGAINST THE MILITIA.—A meeting, convened by the Mayor, was held at the Shire Hall, Gloucester, on Monday evening, for the purpose of petitioning Parliament against the proposed enrolment of the militia. The meeting consisted of nearly 2000 persons, and was of a very enthusiastic character. Mr. Alderman Washbourn, in the absence of the Mayor, presided. The meeting was addressed by several gentlemen, who expatiated on the horrors of war, and denounced especially the system which had been adopted for organising the militia force. Resolutions of a corresponding character passed, and a petition adopted, which it was determined should lie for signature in the town for some days preparatory to its being presented to the Legislature.

EXPLOSION OF GUNPOWDER AT ARNOLD, NEAR NOTTINGHAM.—On Saturday last an explosion of gunpowder took place upon the premises of Mr. Edwin Garratt, grocer and druggist, of Arnold, four miles from Nottingham, which destroyed a large amount of property, and caused the death of Mr. George Garratt, the brother of Mr. Edwin Garratt. Mr. Garratt occupies two houses, the property of Mr. Rhodes, of Redhill, one of which was used as a retail shop, and the other as a warehouse for goods. Mr. Garratt (the deceased), who was ill and of unsound mind, was, at the time, lying in bed, in a chamber on the second floor of the warehouse, above which was a store-room, containing a considerable quantity of gunpowder. From some cause, this gunpowder exploded, and the whole house was blown to pieces, the timbers and bricks falling in a complete shower for a considerable distance all around. Mr. Garratt was in a lower room, and, on hearing the explosion, rushed out of the house, in time to escape injury from the falling ruins. His brother was absolutely blown out of his bed, into the street, where he was shortly afterwards extricated from the rubbish, and found to be severely burnt and bruised. He soon afterwards died. A framework-knitter, of the name of William Thompson, who happened to be passing at the moment, was also struck down, and covered by the falling mass. The injury done to the stock is estimated at £350, and to the buildings £400, all of which are uninsured.—At the inquest, the Jury returned, as their verdict—"That the deceased died in consequence of injuries he received by an explosion of gunpowder; that, by some means, he caused the said explosion; and that, at the same time, he appears to have been of unsound mind and understanding." Mr. Edwin Garratt, the brother of the deceased, and occupier of two of the houses destroyed, stated that the property was entirely uninsured, and that injury to the amount of £1,000 had been inflicted. Thompson, the other sufferer in the hospital, is recovering.

APPEARANCE OF THE COUNTRY.—The Liverpool Courier says:—"The mildness of the present winter is a subject of general remark. We learn from the country that such is the temperature of the season that the thrush and others of the feathered tribe may be heard singing in some situations in the county of York and the neighbouring counties, on fine mornings, as they are usually heard in the early weeks of March and April. The winter wheats never looked more green or flourishing in January than at the present season, but the farmers and gardeners are beginning to wish for frost to check premature vegetation."

IRELAND.

CONVICTION FOR FIRING AT SIR FRANCIS HOPKINS.—Lest week Bryan Seery was again tried for firing at Sir Francis Hopkins. The long panel was called over, and upwards of 100 gentlemen answered. After twenty challenges on the part of the prisoner, a highly respectable jury, the greater portion magistrates, was sworn. The proceedings were essentially similar to those on the first trial, on the previous day, when the jury could not agree. After a consultation of four hours the Jury returned a verdict of "Guilty," and the prisoner was on Saturday sentenced to death by Lord Chief Baron Brady.

ANOTHER ATTEMPT AT ASSASSINATION.—On Thursday evening (last week), Mr. Hugh Hanbury, of Rathmolyon, in the county of Meath, was fired at by an unknown assassin, who lay concealed behind a hedge, on the public road, and within 40 perches of Mr. Hanbury's residence. A reward of £100 has been offered by the Government, for the discovery of the perpetrator of the outrage. It is a melancholy coincidence, that this lawless act was committed on the very day that the gentry of the county had assembled together for the laudable purpose of devising measures for the permanent amelioration of the labouring classes. A proclamation has also been issued, offering a like reward for the apprehension of the murderers of Mr. James Lynch, who was shot dead, in the county of Limerick, on the 12th inst.

DEATH OF THE HON. CAPTAIN W. KEITH, R.N.—We have to notice the decease of the above gallant captain, who expired a few days since at Monkridge, near Haddington, N.B. The honourable captain was second and only surviving son of William, seventh Earl of Kintore.

The new statue about to be erected at Orleans to the memory of Joan of Arc is to be equestrian, and will cost 100,000*fr.*, part of which sum is to be contributed by the city, and the rest raised by voluntary subscription. Several artists have already sent in models.

Accounts from Warsaw, published in a Frankfort paper, state that the news from the Caucasus comes down to the 20th of December, and that the Circassians had taken and destroyed, in a night attack, the forts on the left wing of the Russian army. The Russian garrisons consisting of between 1000 and 1200 men, had been partly cut to pieces, and partly carried away as prisoners to the mountains.]

ACCIDENTS AND OFFENCES.

SUICIDE OF A STRANGE SORT OF A GIRL.—On Tuesday, Mr. Wakley, M.P., held an inquest at the University College Hospital on the body of Annabella Perry, aged twenty-one, late cook in a family residing in Huntley-street, Tottenham-court-road. Jane Perry, sister and fellow servant of deceased, said the latter went out on Saturday evening last to make some purchases, as she said. She remained out two hours and a half, and, returning at nine o'clock, she went without saying a word upstairs to her bed-room. Not descending to the kitchen, in half an hour the witness went to look for her, and found her suspended by the neck from the bed-post by a black silk handkerchief. An alarm was raised, the body was cut down, and a surgeon was in attendance with all possible dispatch, but their attempts to save life were useless. "She was a strange sort of girl," the sister said, "and used to ask every young man she saw to marry her." From her earliest youth she was very giddy, flighty, and fond of talking ridiculous nonsense. A year ago she had attempted to hang herself, but the rope broke. Verdict, "Temporary insanity."

THE LATE ACCIDENT ON THE SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY.—The inquiry into the late disastrous accident on this line was resumed on Monday, at Tonbridge. Mr. Barlow and some other witnesses having been examined, the Coroner put some questions to that gentleman as to General Pasley's opinion of the accident. Mr. Barlow at once replied that General Pasley's opinion entirely coincided with his own. The General remarked that "it was an untoward event, which no foresight could have anticipated." The Jury retired for two hours, and on their return, the Foreman read the following as the unanimous finding of himself and brother jurors:—"We find that James Dobie was killed in consequence of the falling of a bridge, called Johnson's-bridge, in this parish, by reason of the foundation of the said bridge being undermined and washed away by an unexpected flood of water; and in the opinion of the Jury it is a dangerous practice to make drains under arches, as it tends to weaken the foundation; and the Jury consider the ballast hole, alluded to in the evidence adduced, is too near the line of railway." The verdict was accompanied by a nominal deadweight of 1s. on the engine and tender.

COLLISION ON THE GREAT NORTH OF ENGLAND RAILWAY.—An accident occurred to the mail train proceeding north, on Friday evening (last week), near the Lessay station, on the Great North of England Railway. The train was rather earlier than usual, and was going at the rate of about ten miles an hour past the station, when another train was discovered in advance on the same line, and though the steam was put off instantly, and the break applied, a violent collision took place, which broke the engines, damaged several of the carriages, and injured a number of the passengers. One lady was much cut about the head and face, and one gentleman received a severe blow on the leg. It appears that the train run into was a coal train on the wrong line, it being changing from one to the other when the mail train was observed coming, and as the coal train could not be got out of the way in time, the engine-man put on the steam, and pushed it along in advance of the mail train, so as to afford the latter an opportunity of stopping as soon as the obstruction was discovered.

CIVIL WAR ON THE THAMES.

O, Father Thames! thy Sons and Guns
Are making quite a row now;
The Isle they call the Isle of Dogs
Ne'er bark'd up such a bow-wow!
If you are good, and in the mood,
We'll tell you, reader, how now!
'Twas brought to bear
By the great Lord Mayor.

You know that he's obliged to see
A precious lot of company—
Ay, every size and sort o' men;
But the Watermen's Co.
Is with him no go;
And it's not his measure
To "request the Pleasure
Of the Company of Watermen."

Well, without suit or summons,
He shorten'd their Commons,
And cut off their piers shorter still—as is known!
So they just sent him word
That, as he was a Lord,
They'd be after creating a pier of their own.

This practical chaff
They perform'd at Paul's Wharf:
They perceived a brave house for the bibing of beer there;
Chain'd barges together,
For foul or fair weather,
And you soon saw appear a most beautiful pier there!

Of, ay! quite as much use as the pier at Blackfriars,
So they said—but his Lordship declared they were liars.
All men thought the Mayor seized with a pain in his liver,
So prompt was his fashion
Of proving his passion,
And from that moment forth there was war on the river!

Now we give the tittle tattle
Of a most important battle.
Mayor will never rest—he roars
Till the Watermen he floors,
Flabbergasters, grievers and gulls,
If he cannot break their ours,
He at least will crack their skulls!

He collects his warlike brothers,
"Mudlarks, dredgers, and others,"
("Mudlarks!" shout the boys at play,
"Pray what sort of larks are they?")
City Peelers, drilled enough
To get their choler up to cuff;
All together, mixed like gravy,
Form a sort of Lord Mayor's navy;
These, with many men we like ill,
Board the steamer call'd St. Michael,
And, with many "ha's" and "hems" O!
Sally forth upon the Thames O!
With a Water-Bailiff bore
Acting there as commodore!

Do we hear
They take the Pier?
No such luck, Lord Mayor, we fear—
They are off,
The prime Paul Wharf,
Which to capture they may strive O!
But they're met by Waterman 5 O!—
Hardy—handy—and all alive O!

Water-Bailiff's luck enlarges—
Lord Mayor's Fleet has won the Barges;
But ere it can save that bacon,
Water-Bailiff's luck declines—
All the Barges are re-taken:
Water-Bailiff looking gravely—
No. 5 behaving bravely,
And of triumph showing signs.

Soon the Water-Bailiff roard'd in,
"Peelers, pipe all hands for boardin'!"
Lord Mayor's troops are all alive—
Boarded now is Number 5.
But the crew
Are very few—
What can the policemen do?
Draw their truncheons—give a topper
To the boy what won't cry "Stop her!"
Bludgeon one who won't cry "Ease her!"
To assist their wish to seize her;
And the helmsman's work to stop,
Bruise his fingers till they drop.
Pretty sailors, these! No matter:
Now no more they bruise and batter.

For that jolly down-stairs joker,
Whom they designate the stoker,
Shouts up to his Peeler foes,
"Steam my hearties, 'off it goes."



OPENING OF THE VICENZA AND VENICE RAILWAY.

THE VICENZA AND VENICE RAILWAY.

The Railroad between Vicenza and Venice was opened on the 11th inst. The principal feature of this line is of course the bridge or viaduct, crossing the Laguna Veneta, which commences at the Punta della Sacca, on the island of St. Lucia, and terminates at the Barena di St. Giuliano, where the Railroad on the mainland begins. The soil in which the foundation of the viaduct is laid is almost all marshy, covered by the water of the ordinary high tides, which near Venice is 180 metres in depth, and at St. Giuliano becomes so shallow as to have scarcely any depth at all. Consequently, even at low water, the marsh is to half its extent covered; but in high tides, or storms, the waters rise about 120 metres above the level of the sea, and then the passage across the Lagune becomes difficult or impracticable. In bad weather the violence of the waves is such that great difficulties had to be overcome in laying the foundations; the fury of the wind sometimes destroying in an hour the work of the preceding days. By skill and precaution, however, they have been successfully overcome. The base of the works terminates at the height above the level, at which the spring of the arches commences; it is built of the stone of Istria, joined with Roman cement; the height of this basement is 26 metres above the level of the sea. All the upper works are of brick. The bridge contains 222 arches, divided into six compartments of 37 arches each, and one much larger in the centre. The whole length is 12,000 English feet. The breadth of the roadway is sufficient to allow two trains to pass. The architectural character of the work is Roman. The style of the parapet is antique, massive where it rests upon the arches, and terminating in open column work. By the side of the parapets, and on the level of the road, many pipes are laid which are to be connected with the great aqueduct in progress for bringing fresh water from Sile to Venice. In laying the foundation 80,000 piles of larch-wood were driven; in the whole of the works there were 30,000 cubic metres of earth excavated, while there were employed as materials, 7000 cubic metres of rubble, 110,000 kilogrammes of iron, 21,000,000 of bricks, and 5000 cubic metres of Istrian stone; four years were required to complete the structure, and about a thousand men were daily employed upon it. The first plan was laid down by Signor Milani, an architect and engineer, but many improvements were subsequently introduced by the acting engineer of the

works Signor L. Duodo; they were also superintended by Signor A. Noale. Great credit is due to the contractor and builder, Antonio Bussetto of Palestrina, for the style in which he has performed his task; it is said he has derived a good profit from the undertaking. The total cost is 5,600,000 lire (Austrian) or £186,667 sterling.

Thus is Venice, the ocean city, at last chained by modern enterprise to the mainland; no future Rogers will be able to describe the approach to it as he has done in words now rendered a tradition:

There is a glorious city in the sea.
The sea is in the broad and narrow streets,
Ebbing and flowing, and the salt sea-weed
Clings to the marble of the palaces.
No track of men, no footsteps to and fro
Lead to her gates. The path lies o'er the sea
Invisible; and from the land we went
As to a floating city—steering in
And gliding up her streets, as in a dream,
So smoothly, silently—by many a dome,
Mosque-like, and many a stately portico,
The statues ranged along an azure sky;
By many a pile in more than Eastern-pride,
Of old—the residence of merchant Kings.

How changed is now the approach so beautifully described? "The path lies o'er the sea" still, it is true, but no more "invisible," or noiseless. It lies along the "ringing groves" traversed with scream and rattle by that modern enchanter to whose power neither ocean nor mountain can oppose an obstacle. The Romance that lingered over Venice has received a shock; she is reduced to the "dull catalogue" of common cities, reached by the same unpicturesque means. But these are great compensations; the beauty of decay and isolation is very well for poets to write about, but those who live in the midst of them prefer the bustle and prosperity of trade, and if anything can raise Venice above her present condition, it is the completion of her Railroad.

The first trial of the line took place on the 4th inst., and on the 11th it was opened in form. The authorities of the city, accompanied by a select party, with music &c., started in a train at half-past ten in the morning for Vicenza; at Padova they were joined by the authorities of that town; the party thus augmented went on to Vicenza, and after partaking of a sumptuous breakfast in the Campo Marti, they returned

to Venice. The distance is thirty-six miles, and the time occupied in performing it was two hours going, and one hour returning. The trains will run three times a day, returning to Venice and stopping at Padova and four other intermediate stations. The fares are, first-class 5s. 6d.; second ditto 4s. 4d.; third ditto 2s. 8d.

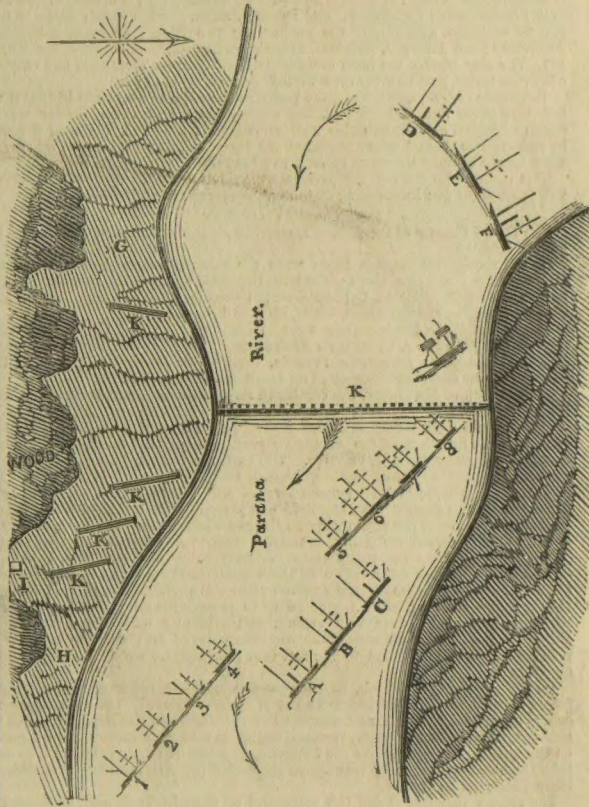
IMPORTANT NEWS FROM THE RIVER PLATE.

(From a Correspondent.)

DEFEAT OF GENERAL ROSAS BY THE ENGLISH AND FRENCH TROOPS.

The *Cyclops* has arrived at Plymouth, from Rio Janeiro, which place she left on the 23rd of December, and brings the important news of a desperate action on the 20th of November, between the combined English and French forces, and the troops of General Rosas, on the river Parana, at the Vuelto del Obligado. The *Cyclops* left Rio on the morning of the 23rd of December. The Brazilians left 400 dead in the batteries, and are supposed to have carried away an equal number. On the part of the combined forces, the greater loss fell on the French.

The account of this affair is contained in a letter dated Buenos Ayres, Nov. 30:—On the 28th Nov., the *Proceda*, French hired vessel, arrived at Buenos Ayres, bringing word that, on the 20th November, the combined Anglo-French forces took up their position at ten A.M. The *San Martin*, bearing the flag of Captain Trehouart, leading, followed by the *Comus*, who, upon taking up her position, had her cables cut through, and went adrift. One hour and a half elapsed (from want of wind) before the *Dolphin* could pass the *San Martin*, which she did



PLAN OF THE ACTION OF POINT OBLIGADO.

K Buenos Ayres Batteries and Gun Brig *Republicano*, 6 guns, and Boom across the river consisted of 26 vessels, strongly chained together. The enemy's works consisted of 4 Batteries, armed with 26 pieces of artillery, of 32, 24, and 18-pounders, placed in tiers one above another.

FORCES OF THE ALLIES.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Proceda</i> , French | 5. <i>Pandour</i> , French |
| 2. <i>Philomel</i> , English | 6. <i>Comus</i> , English |
| 3. <i>Fanny Price</i> , English | 7. <i>San Martin</i> , French Flag |
| 4. <i>Expeditive</i> , French | 8. <i>Dolphin</i> , English |

A. *Gorgon* } in First Position,
B. *Firebrand* } before the Boom
C. *Fulton* } was passed
D. E. F. The Same in Second Position, after the Boom was passed
G. Where the French landed } To Storm the
H. Where the English landed } Batteries
I. House where Rosas's brother died, which was afterwards destroyed by shell inside, between her and the left bank of the river. The action was kept up with great spirit on both sides until one P.M., when a shot from her Majesty's ship *Dolphin* blew up the Republican gun brig moored at a *tête de pont* above the boom. As the fire from the enemy's works did not slacken, Captain Hope manned his boat, and cut away the chain cables, and vessels comprising the boom, thus allowing the steamers to pass, and take the fort in reverse. This service was performed in a most gallant style, Captain Hope being exposed to a very severe fire of musketry.



OPENING OF THE JAMAICA RAILWAY.—KINGSTON TERMINUS.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

At four P.M., the enemy's fire slackened, and carts were seen to be employed carrying away the dead and wounded from the batteries. The batteries were surrounded by a body of cavalry 3000 strong, armed as lancers. At half-past four, the gunner and soldiers in two of the enemy's batteries were seen to run from their guns, and endeavour to pass the line of cavalry; these latter charged upon them, and for a short time a severe skirmish was kept up between the two parties. The gunners were ultimately driven back to their posts, and another attempt was repeated on their part with the like ill-success.

At six P.M., the French Commander in Chief proposed to Captain Hotham to land and carry the batteries. Captain Trehouart passed up the line of the enemy's fire most gallantly, and landing at the highest fort, carried it, and the enemy precipitately abandoned his position. It appears the guns had been worked on the enemy's batteries by Englishmen, Americans, and negroes. A son of Admiral Brown made himself very conspicuous on the ramparts of one of the batteries and escaped unhurt. The enemy's loss amounted to 120 negroes (runners, &c.), found dead under their guns, and about 400 whites killed, and the like number wounded.

English loss—10 killed, and 25 wounded.
French loss—18 killed, and 70 wounded.
Large quantities of ordnance and stores were found in the works. Nineteen brass guns were reserved, the rest of the ordnance destroyed. The *Fulton*, French steamer, had her paddles knocked away, and her chimney cut through, besides one hundred and seven shots in her hull. The *San Martin* had 104 shots in her hull; the *Dolphin* riddled. Lieut. Brickdale, *Sailite*, killed; Mr. G. Andrews, clerk in charge, killed; Lieut. Doyle, of the *Philomet*, killed.

According to another account, the loss of the combined forces is—French, 18 dead and 70 wounded. Among the dead—Hollo, same ship; Verneiz, of the *Pandour*; Simmoneau, *Expeditive*; and David, *Fulton*. The English lost—10 dead and 25 wounded, and among the former are two officers, Lieutenant Brigdale, *Firebrand*; and Andrews, *Dolphin*. The *Fulton* has received 104 shot, the *Dolphin* 107. The *San Martin* has been literally drilled. Captain Trehouart had only one officer on board, and half the crew *hors de combat*, or 4 of 96.

The battle of Obligado is the more honourable to the two services in that it was not ships of the line and frigates, but merely brigs and even smaller vessels, which advanced against batteries well served, well mounted, and well defended by entrenchments and works prepared for three months previously, and which were fought bravely for seven consecutive hours.

This victory will destroy the prestige which has hitherto favoured Rosas, and will open to the two intervening Powers a great work of civilisation.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT

The *Brazil Courier* of the 13th of December gives the following version of this gallant affair:—

On the part of the English there were the steamers *Gorgon* and *Firebrand*, Captain Hope; corvette *Comus*, Captain Ingfield; the brigs *Philomet*, Captain Sullivan; and the *Dolphin*, Captain Leving; the brigantine *Fanny*, Captain Key. Captain Hotham, commander-in-chief, on board the *Gorgon*.

On the part of the French there were the steamer *Fulton*, Captain Mazeres; the corvette *Expeditive*, Captain de Miniac; the brigs *Pandour*, Captain du Parc; *San Martin*, and the brigantine *Proceda*, Captain de la Riviere. Captain Trehouart was the commander-in-chief on board the *San Martin*.

On the 18th of November, the combined forces moored about three miles from Point Obligado.

In the evening the Captains of the *Fulton* and *Philomet* went in a boat to reconnoitre the frontiers of the enemy's forces. They found four batteries established on the right bank of the river. The batteries mounted about 24 pieces of artillery, mostly of heavy calibre, besides several detached field-pieces. The river itself was barred by a stockade formed with 24 vessels, bound together by three strong iron chains. This stockade was placed between the third and fourth batteries. At one of the extremities on the right bank were 10 fire-ships ready to be let go; at the other extremity, at the left bank, was moored the *Republicano* (Rosas's brig), armed with many pieces of heavy calibre and designed to take in *en flûte* the opposing ships. Two of these batteries were nearly on a level with the river, and two others on peaks more or less elevated. Lastly, about 4,000 men infantry and cavalry, were posted so as to protect the shores, and oppose any landing. The works were very strong, and evidently under the direction of European Engineers, well acquainted with the rules of art; and the tenacity of resistance is to be attributed to the fact that the batteries were served by foreign deserters.

On the morning of the 20th, as soon as the mist cleared away, the combined forces formed in three divisions for the purpose of attack. The first, under the orders of Captain Sullivan, and composed of the *Philomet*, the *Expeditive*, and the schooners *Fanny* and *Proceda*, received orders to take position towards the south, on the left bank, a little above the batteries, at about 700 metres distance, so as to take them *en écharpe*. This manoeuvre succeeded perfectly, and firing commenced immediately on both sides.

The second division, under the command of Captain Trehouart, composed of the *San Martin*, the *Comus*, the *Pandour*, and the *Dolphin*, took up a position towards the north, quite close to the stockade, and in front of the batteries, and at the same distance of 700 metres.

This division was not only to attack the batteries, but also the republicans, whose fire took it *en flûte*, as before stated. Unfortunately, whilst the *San Martin* was anchoring, the wind happening to fall the vessels which followed her, the brig was for a long time exposed to the fire of the batteries, and this fire was directed against her with a greater fury because she was recognised as one of the Buenos Ayrean squadron captured before Monte Video. The generous efforts, however, of the *Dolphin* to draw close, succeeded in effectually assisting the *San Martin* by the diversion of her artillery, and by drawing on herself a part of the enemy's fire. The *San Martin* had already her two only officers and several of her seamen severely wounded. The *Comus* and the *Pandour* had, by this time, come to take positions as near as the bank permitted, as well as the *Fulton* and the *Proceda*, both of which Captain Trehouart made signal to join. The battle was then continued with spirit on both sides. Although the enemy distributed his shot pretty freely against all opponents, his especial fury was directed against the *San Martin*, throughout the engagement.

This brig soon had 44 men placed *hors de combat*, two pieces dismounted, her rigging destroyed, her masts ready to fall, the mainmast alone having received 11 balls. Notwithstanding all these disadvantages she continued to fight vigorously, when another shot struck her chain-cable, and at length forced her to quit her position. A bomb-shell from the *Dolphin* at the same moment set fire to the *Republicano*, which shortly after blew up.

The fire-ships were then launched by the enemy, but being turned by the current, did not produce the intended effect.

The third division, under the command of Captain Hotham, composed of the *Gorgon* and *Firebrand* (the *Fulton* had joined the second division), had waited in observation at the distance of 1500 metres from the farthest battery, throwing thence hollow projectiles in all directions.

Captain Hope of the *Firebrand*, went in his boat into the midst of the fire to break the chains which united the stockade.

His intrepidity was crowned with the most complete success. When once the chains were broken, the strong current opened the line of vessels forming the stockade, and the *Fulton* immediately took advantage to pass through and place herself in a position higher up, so as to cross her fire with that of the first division.

It was at this period that Captain Trehouart, quitting the *San Martin*, which was totally disabled for further service, went on board the *Gorgon* to concert with his colleague, Captain Hotham. Thence he passed to the *Expeditive*, and made the signal of union to the *Pandour* and *Proceda*; he then ordered his three ships to run aground at pistol-shot distance from the batteries, upon which they threw a shower of grape. The corvette *Comus* came up quickly to sustain this intrepid manoeuvre. At the same time, Captain Hotham disembarked, with much skill and vigour, 325 English soldiers. This determined conduct on the part of the two commanders, executed with equal bravery and success, overcame the last resistance of the enemy, and decided the day.

The first English detachment, under the command of Captain Sullivan, had been received on landing by a heavy fire of musketry from the enemy in ambush in an adjoining wood; but the arrival of the rest of the troops, under the orders of Lieut. Hindle, quickly put the enemy to flight, notwithstanding the efforts of their cavalry, which were charging and ruthlessly slaughtering the English infantry.

Captain Trehouart having likewise landed with his men, shortly after joined the English, and took possession of the batteries, on which the enemy discontinued further resistance.

On the morning of the 21st additional forces landed, and completed the destruction of the batteries. The gun carriages were destroyed, and the guns broken or cast into the river. Ten bronzed cannons only were preserved, and shipped on board the combined squadron. All this day the allied forces remained ashore without being in the least disturbed.

It was during the hottest part of this remarkable engagement that Captain Hotham wrote to his colleague, Captain Trehouart, the words underneath quoted—words equally honourable to the writer and to the party addressed:—"If the title of 'brave' has ever been deserved, it is by you and your crews."

"Si le titre de 'brave' a jamais été mérité, c'est par vous et vos équipages."

The engagement with the batteries began at 10 A.M., and lasted till 5 P.M., during which time there was an incessant firing. From 5 to 7 P.M., the landing and the destruction of the works took place.

We have received the following from a Correspondent on board the *Cyclops*:—"I believe the vessels were chiefly in their positions by half-past ten A.M. I could not learn whether Rosas's brother died from wounds or other causes: he commanded the post which is supposed to have been the strongest held by Rosas. The Slave-Trade was very brisk at Rio Janeiro, on account of our cruisers being employed in the River Plate. We bring home a French Secretary of Legation from Buenos Ayres, and the Master (Mr. Coffey), and two of the crew of the English brig *Catherine*, of Whitehaven, Cumberland, which sprung a leak between Monte Video and Rio Janeiro (in ballast): they were obliged to run her on shore to save their lives, near the river Chucuy, adjoining the Oriental boundary. Oribe's party took possession of her, and plundered her and the crew of everything; but Captain Coffey saved his chronometer, sextant, and watch, by having them in an old clothes-bag. They were detained, as prisoners of war, four months; but at length were given up to our Admiral in the Plate. Capt. Coffey states that Mr. Fiddy, the American Consul at Moldonado, was very kind to him and crew—relieving them in every manner he possibly could; and that one of his crew had been murdered, having straggled from his companions after daylight: he had evidently been wounded with some sharp instrument about the face; and placed in a leaning position against a bank in a pool of water, stripped of all the clothes about him of any value—money he had none; and Capt. C. thinks, had the news of the above action reached before they were given up, that his whole crew would have shared the same fate—from the ill-feeling that appeared to exist from the natives against both English and French."

OPENING OF THE JAMAICA RAILWAY.

The completion of a line of Railway from Kingston to Spanish Town, in Jamaica, is a most gratifying instance of colonial enterprise; and proves that the energies of the people have not been repressed even by the sweeping calamities of fire and tempest, incident to their country. Somewhat more than two years since we had to record the burning of a great part of the city of Kingston; and it is with very different feelings that we now call attention to this town as a terminus of the newly completed Railway.

The opening took place on Friday, the 21st of November last. The event had been long and anxiously anticipated; and, in order to invest it with the just degree of importance, his Excellency the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the several heads of departments civil and military, the hon. Members of the Council and Assembly, and a large number of the more wealthy and influential members of the community, were invited to attend the ceremony; and a most propitious day rendered this attendance very general and numerous. An enormous crowd of spectators was collected all around the stations, and several very extensive booths were filled with well-dressed females. His Excellency the Earl of Elgin arrived at a little after eleven o'clock, attended by his brother, Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. Robert Bruce, and accompanied by the Receiver General. He was received by a guard of honour from the 1st West India Regiment, the band of that regiment playing the national anthem. After a short conversation with Mr. William Smith, the Projector and Resident Director of the Company, and a recognition of the numerous gentlemen who were collected on the occasion, his Excellency was conducted at about half-past eleven o'clock to the handsome state carriage provided by the Company for the accommodation of her Majesty's representative, and the Company's new engine "The Projector" having been attached, the train, consisting of some eight or ten well filled carriages, started on the first railway excursion in the British West Indies; the excellent band of the 1st West India Regiment taking its stand in the last, third class, carriage, and playing lively airs.

The train passed at a slow pace through the suburban portions of the line, which were densely thronged on both sides with crowds of wondering citizens, who loudly cheered the novel exhibition as it passed before them. These crowds were more or less to be seen along the whole line of railway. At the embankment through the morass, beyond Hunt's Bay, generally known as "The Islands," the trains stopped, and his Excellency alighted, and walked forward with Lieut.-Col. Bruce, Mr. Smith, and the Engineer, Mr. Miller, in order to examine this difficult work. At the new bridge over the Rio Cobre, the train made a second stoppage, in order to water the engine, and arrived at the Spanish Town terminus at about half-past twelve; the speed being kept very low the whole distance, for the double purpose of allowing to the passengers a view of the works, and of preventing the possibility of accident amongst the crowd of spectators collected at both termini, as well as along the road.

At Spanish Town, the Governor descended, and proceeded to examine the stations in course of erection, and the other works and designs of the Company at that terminus. Meanwhile, the engine was adjusted to the other end of the train, and his Excellency and the other passengers having taken their seats, the train started on its return at one o'clock, reaching the Kingston Station in about 40 minutes. The speed on the return was, during a portion of the distance, considerably increased, a maximum speed of 30 miles an hour having been attained; but on nearing Kingston, the rapidity was very greatly diminished, with the same objects as those already stated. A second trip was shortly afterwards made, when a large number of other persons who had been favoured with tickets took their seats, and were similarly taken along the line and back, the return train on this occasion performing the distance (nearly 12 miles) in 25 minutes.

At a little after two o'clock, his Excellency the Governor and his distinguished party, and about 120 of the civil and military authorities, and influential gentlemen of the city, sat down to a superb *déjeuner*, provided at the expense of the Company, at the Victoria Rooms, in Duke-street. William Smith, Esq., the Resident Director, took the President's chair, being supported on his right by the Earl of Elgin, the Vice-Chancellor, Lieut.-Colonel Bush, 1st West India Regiment, and the Hon. Duncan Robertson; and on his left by Lieut.-Col. the Hon. Robert Bruce, the Attorney-General, the Hon. Thos. James Bernard, and the Hon. Alexandre Bravo; opposite to Mr. Smith, and at the same table, sat the Speaker of the Assembly, with Lieut.-Colonel Warren, Adjutant-General, on his right, and Captain Darling on his left. John Nethersole, Esq., and David Smith, Esq., the manager, acted as Vice-Presidents. Several well-timed speeches were made; and the company did not separate till a late hour.

We perceive that the spirit of Railway enterprise is rife in Jamaica: in the *Despatch*, whence we have abridged the preceding Report, we find advertised an Atmospheric line (Pilbrow's) from Milk River to Montego Bay (Westerly.)

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, Feb. 1.—Fourth Sunday after Epiphany.
MONDAY, 2.—Candlemas Day.
TUESDAY, 3.—St. Blaise, the patron saint of the wool-combing craft, martyred under Dioclesian, A.D. 289.
WEDNESDAY, 4.—G. H. Harlowe died, 1819.
THURSDAY, 5.—Sir Robert Peel born, 1788.
FRIDAY, 6.—Charles II. died, 1685—Dr. Priestley died, 1804.
SATURDAY, 7.—Mary Queen of Scots beheaded, 1587.

HIGH WATER at London-bridge for the Week ending February 7.

Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.
6 10	6 33	6 55	7 15	7 43	8 11
8	8	8	8	8	8
27	27	27	27	27	27
10	10	10	10	10	10
49	49	49	49	49	49
11	11	11	11	11	11
29	29	29	29	29	29
0	0	0	0	0	0

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"A Lady Subscriber" is reminded that two Portraits of Signor Sivori appeared in No. 57 of our Journal.
"A J. S." is thanked for his communication respecting the Rabbit Show: on some future occasion, we will make the amende.
"C. F. L." has anticipated the advice we ourselves should have tendered under the circumstances in question.
"S. A."—Queen Elizabeth, in her sixteenth year, became a proficient in Greek and Latin; and, subsequently, translated from the Greek "Boethius's Consolations of Philosophy;" the Royal MS. was discovered, some years since, in the State Paper Office.
"A Tee-Totaller" had better leave the uncharitable conduct complained of to find its own level.
"A Pioneer," Sunderland, is thanked for his correction of the artist's error.
"W." informs us that, besides the churches named in our description of St. Mary Magdalene's, at Taunton, the fine Collegiate Church at Manchester includes, in its plan, a nave and four aisles.
"A Subscriber from the Commencement" is assured that "the broom" appears in our Irish artist's original Sketch of the Kerry Cottage, in No. 193 of our Journal. Our Subscriber remarks, in correction of the Sketch of Charlet, in No. 194, that "he was a very tall, handsome man (6 ft. 1 or 2 inches), and stout in proportion, with a certain nobleness of gait, altogether, a regular artistic type, such as you only see in France."
"J. C."—Alfred-place, is thanked for "The Golden Casket," but we cannot promise to insert the translations.
"Johannes."—Mr. Joseph Planta was, for some years, principal librarian at the British Museum, and a gentleman of high antiquarian attainments. He died in 1827.
"K. C. B."—We have not at hand a copy of the specification of "the Queen's Ink," invented by Sir G. S. Mackenzie; so that we cannot describe the process of its manufacture. It may, however, doubtless, be found in the Repository of Patents for the past year. Mr. Bain is a first-rate authority on Electric Clocks: we believe he has established a manufactory in Edinburgh.
"An Old Subscriber," Cork, is thanked for his corrections.
"Troutbeck."—Mr. Landells, Engraver, 6, Bride-court, Blackfriars.
"109, Manchester," should refer to "Murray's Grammar" to settle the "shall or will dispute."
"C. P."—The cost of a marriage license, special, is £5; not special, 10s.
"Scrutator."—The custom of giving tails to servants has long been discontinued in high society.
"H. E. N."—Crane-court, should refer to the last "Navy List."
"C. F. C."—When the affairs of the East India Company are again brought prominently before the public, the promised paper shall appear.
"Laura Augusta."—We have not room to reply.
"W. L."—St. Cross, Winchester, suggests that advantage might be taken of the sagacity of Dogs in training them to discover incendiaries.
"A Subscriber."—The London Orphan Asylum, (Office, 10, St. Mary Axe), provides for destitute orphan children of either sex. The British Orphan Asylum, (Office, 11, Abchurch Lane), has similar provisions.
"A Subscriber."—Clonmel, is thanked; but we have not room for the long enigma.
"Cestrian."—Manchester.—Midshipmen are educated for their profession at the Royal Naval College. The most desirable interest is with the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, with whom, we opine, the mode named by "Cestrian" would have little or no influence, if it be not altogether informal.

"An Irish Lady."—We regret that we are not in possession of the information required by our fair Correspondent.

"Gyp." Exeter.—"London's Magazine of Natural History" has been, for some years, incorporated with the "Annals of Natural History," published monthly, at 2s. 6d.

"Breakwater." Plymouth, is informed that the Illustrations of the New Houses of Parliament, of which he and his friends so highly approved, will be resumed in our Journal.

"B. C." Kirby-street, is thanked: the Sketches of Toronto shall appear shortly.

"An Angleses Subscriber" had better submit his legal question to a Solicitor.

"Senex" is quizzically inclined.

"J. S. C."—Comper's translation of Homer is unequally executed; "but, taken as a whole, and judged by those rules which should be applied to translations, it must be pronounced the best translation of Homer which we possess." Thus saith the Penny Cyclopaedia, voce "Comper" but, under "Homer," "Perhaps, on the whole, Chapman's is the best." These are, doubtless, the opinions of two different writers.

"R. A." Regent's Park, should send specimens.

"Memoria." Lisburn.—The last edition of "Dr. Grey's Memoria Technica;" moderate price.

"S. Z." Hatfield.—The cheapest mode of proceeding from England to New York is as steerage passenger in one of the liners.

"L. C." Clifford's Inn.—Oxford was tried at the Old Bailey in 1840, and, being insane, was sent for confinement to Bethlehem Hospital, where he now remains.

"Loan" is not recommended to apply to either of the Loan Societies, which, in truth, appear to be almost as unprofitable to lenders as to borrowers.

"G. C." "J. B." Antwerp, and "W. L." Steyne.—The promised View of Dublin will be presented, gratis, to each Subscriber; the day will be duly announced.

"A Constant Subscriber."—We cannot speak to the literary character of the Dictionary in question.

"J. H." Cebbacy.—The Romish Clergy, generally, were compelled to a vow of Celibacy in 1073.

"Pianissimo" is recommended to procure a copy of "Wade's Hand-book for the Piano-forte."

"A Subscriber from the Commencement" has sent us his own beau-ideal of an Illustrated Newspaper; but, he seems to forget the multiplicity of tastes we have to study.

"J. S." Inverness.—It is not our practice, knowingly, to decide Wagers.

"An Admirer of Art."—We have already engraved a specimen of the Boulogne and Folkestone Steamers.

"E. L." Sheffield.—The ancestors of Prince Albert having been Sovereign Princes at the time surnames were first adopted, had no necessity for taking one; and his Royal Highness has not, therefore, we believe, any surname.

"T. C. D."—The escutcheon of pretence should be borne in the manner indicated in Sketch No. 2.

"Sable."—A verbal description of Arms will suffice to obtain from the Herald's College, at a trifling fee, a correct drawing of them, in case they are recorded in the Office; if they be not, the cost of registration would amount to seventy-five guineas.

"Hooker Walker."—St. Leon, the violinist and dancer, was a Jew, but recanted at Rome prior to his marriage with Cerito, the danseuse: of course, they appropriately kissed the Pope's toe on the happy occasion. The real name of Mario, we have already stated several times, is the Count of Candia, one of the most ancient titles of the Sardinian nobility. As to the other question, apply to any news-vender for information: the India Mails now arrive twice a month.

"Philo-Harmonicus."—The invention may be seen at Blagrove's Rooms, in Mortimer-street; or at Addison's, in Regent-street.

"S. G."—Collard, of Cheapside, can give the information touching the Geometrical Piano-forte.

"H. H. F."—The canzonet, "There is a Joy," is dedicated to the Hon. Mrs. Norton by the composer, Mr. Thomas Haydon, and not by the author, as stated in our Number of the 17th inst.

"S. G."—Sir Edward Bulwer's article on the Water Cure is the most spirited description of the system. Captain Claridge and Dr. Graham, cum multis aliis, have also written on the subject. We have an antipathy to frigidum sine, unless it be mixed with Cognac.

"J. T. R." and "Erica."—We do not know the works from which the lines referred to are taken.

"Bantam."—The two Polkas, we replied at the time, did not suit our columns.

"Etonensis."—Valpy's "Homer," "Horace," and "Virgil;" or Dr. Anthony's "Virgil."

"Charlton."—The Print and Number may be had at 1s.

"Philotechnos" is thanked for a long and interesting letter: we will reply anon.

"One Taken In."—An unstamped instrument (as an agreement), though an insufficient foundation for proceedings at law, may be used as evidence to defeat fraud. Thus, where an unstamped agreement contained matter not requiring matter, it was used as evidence of that matter, though invalid as evidence of the terms of the agreement.

"B. P." Cheapside.—As the separation referred to would not be legal, there could be no "claim" to the care of the children.

"Correction."—Cardinal Richelieu was the favourite Minister and "ruler" of Louis XIII., who was an imbecile King and son of Henry IV.

"A Constant Reader."—St. John's-wood, should apply at the Office of the Registrar of Designs, 35, Lincoln's-inn-fields.

"Emilie E. C."—The yearly subscription to our Journal is 26s. The postage of a letter to Ceylon, via Southampton, is 1s.; the pre-payment optional.

"An Annual Subscriber."—Berkshire, can only demand of the Collector of Assessed Taxes the customary printed receipt, which is not so specific as our Correspondent appears to imagine.

"S. N. C."—Yes; verdict—"Insanity."

"J. C."—Prince Esterhazy is not related to the Royal Family of Austria. Earl North does not sit in the House of Lords.

"Cælebs."—Tutors in families and the sons of clergymen are not exempt. Marrying will not gain an exemption.

"W. W."—No. We have more than once answered the other question.

"J. E. E."—The clubs receive members from the country. The term of service will be fixed by the Government.

"F. J. R."—Surgeons are not exempted.

"A Subscriber," Plymouth.—He is liable.

"R. P."—Yes.

"Careless" will find the List of Bankers in one of Mr. Murray's excellent Hand-books.

"G. S." Sloane Square, is thanked.

"Victor's Drury Lane Play-bill" is not a century old, and is worth but a trifle.

"More." Peg, will not be liable to be drawn for the Militia until after his next birthday.

"J. G." Frogmore.—Savings Banks are a safe but not productive investment for money.

"J. M. L."—Mr. N. M. C., the marine artist, resides at Plymouth, with his father. We have not room for the Enigma, or to reply to the other questions.

"Alpha."—A Memoir of Lord Brougham is prefixed to a volume of his "Opinions," lately published. We remember to have seen a Sketch of Mr. Shell, in the "New Monthly Magazine."

"Lymington" should apply to Messrs. Simmonds and Ward, 18, Cornhill.

"T. N. W."—The Railway Return may be had at the Parliamentary Paper Office, Great Turnstile, Holborn.

* A few Replies are necessarily deferred.

THE MILITIA.—"C. W. J." Hull, and "An Apprentice"—Apprentices, if bound under a seven years' indenture, are exempt from serving in the Militia.—"J. O." and "Inquisitor," will not be exempt.—"Cymro," Oxford, will not be liable to be drawn for the Militia if he be a Student of the University.—"X. X." will be liable.

INELIGIBLE.—"On a late lamented Poetess."—"E. R. M." Dorset Square.—"Kunigunda."

** SUPPLEMENT, GRATIS!—We have printed with our Journal of this week, a Full Report of the interesting Proceedings in the House of Commons, on the occasion of Sir Robert Peel proposing the New Measures of the Government, on Tuesday night. We hope this will be acceptable to our Subscribers, and prove to them our determination, at any sacrifice of cost, to give full information on Questions of great public importance.

ERRATUM.—From our description of the Patent Enamelled Pearl, Glass, and Papier-Mâché Works, in a former No. of our Journal, the reader may, probably, imagine that Mr. Lane is the proprietor of the Establishment in King-street, Covent Garden; whereas, such is the property of Mr. Cheshire.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 1846.

The debate on the Address, usually an unimportant one, was, on the present occasion, of the greatest interest. This was not due solely to the explanations—both Ministerial and from the Opposition—of all the circumstances that produced and attended the "Crisis," nor did it reside wholly in the revelation of the acceptance by the Premier of the principle of Free Trade to its fullest extent—startling though that revelation has been. There is a deeper interest still awakened by the whole debate, which, from the turn it took, involved no less than the most difficult questions of the theory of party and representative Government, and what may be called the morality of statesmanship and politics.

There are two conflicting theories on this great question so directly opposed to each other, that it is impossible to reconcile them; either may be adopted, but both it is impossible to entertain together. One theory requires from a statesman the most rigid consistency, as it is called—that is to say, he must never change

his opinions on any question, or, if he changes them, he must not carry them into effect. From the principles with which he started he must never deviate, even to adopt better: if those former principles have gained him the support of a party, he must, by that link, remain tied to that party for ever. No necessity—however great—can absolve him from this allegiance; the Minister so elevated must rather be the servant of a party than the ruler of a state. The other theory is less rigid in its requirements; it allows to statesmen, as to other men, a liberty of modifying their opinions, if time and greater experience throw new lights upon old and imperfectly understood questions. It leaves a Minister free to act according to the requirements of the age, though he may formerly have opposed the very policy he now supports; it allows him to defy the formidable tomes of Hansard, and all quoters and quotations therefrom. It does not say, because you once spoke on imperfect information, you must not now act upon fuller knowledge; it does not, in fact, bind the present in the iron fetters of the past, but leaves the powers of the man free to face the difficulties of the time with the measures best calculated to surmount them. The conflict between the two theories is, indeed, the old question of Principle against Expediency, revived now with more animosity than ever.

"Measures, not men," has often been taken as a favourite political motto: it is an open declaration against party theories—a breaking down of those distinctions which have often kindled so much animosity. It was once impossible even to hope that one set of men would ever originate measures that could be supported by the other set of men opposed to them, still less that a party would adopt and carry out the very principles enunciated by their political opponents. Then the only chance the people had of gaining certain measures, was to place in power those whose principles would allow of those measures proceeding from them. But, whether for good or ill, this strict division of parties appears impossible now to maintain; and we have long been in a manner accustomed in the field of politics to gather grapes from thorns and figs from thistles, and to find Whig fruit upon Tory branches. We have arrived fairly at a time when "measures, not men," is the guiding precept. The only power now acknowledged is the necessity of the time; what must be done is done, though a thousand declarations stand recorded against its wisdom and fitness. All we can hope is, that the conversion is sincere and the necessity a real one: if the first is simulated and the latter a delusion, then will our statesmen degenerate into mere tricksters for office, and Government become a series of concessions to a passing panic. But let the necessity be great and real, and the change of opinion sincere, and we must think the avowal of that change bold and honest, and the acting upon it the best political wisdom.

We can, however, fully appreciate the anger and vexation of those whose minds are not so open to conviction, and who consider themselves more closely bound by their declarations to their constituents, than their leader thinks himself tied to them. Having gained our seats by avowing one set of principles, are we free to act upon those most opposite to them, is a very natural question? It can only be met with another—is a legislator chosen to do what is best, or merely to cling to that which is oldest—is he justified in pledging himself to principles that may be found impossible to be maintained with safety to the State? Whatever may be thought upon this point, it is certain a ruler cannot always be so strictly bound; new dangers, and more formidable responsibilities may surround him, from which he cannot escape by continuing in the old course—which rather imperatively force him to reverse it. Should he then continue to govern, or should he relinquish his post?

Mr. Disraeli says yes; he is the champion of what he calls political morality, and insists that a statesman is bound to his party by the declarations on the faith of which he gained their support; and that, when he changes his opinions, he has no right to expect his party to change theirs also; and he tells Sir Robert Peel plainly enough that, "Even if such measures are necessary, you are not the man who should propose them; the country placed us here, and you in office, on principles exactly the reverse; and, whether they were good or bad, wise or foolish, you have no right to break the compact!" That there is force and justice in this, none can deny; the past career, and the former declarations, all the "antecedents," to use a favourite word, of Sir Robert Peel, are unfortunate for the dignity, if they will not affect the usefulness, of his present position. He has to avow that his former opinions were untenable; that he yields them to the force of experiment and experience; and he does this boldly and without reserve, denying that, in doing so, he feels any humiliation; and, above all, he pleads great and imperious State necessity. Could Mr. Disraeli and those he represents show how, if this power of providing for exigencies were denied to a Minister, any government would long be possible? It is easy to erect a high standard, by which to judge either men or governments; the "idea" may be carried up to perfection, but all human things can but remotely approach it. Not what is theoretically the best, but what is practically possible, is of the most importance for us to consider. Mr. Disraeli's "great statesman" might do something for the world, if he had superhuman talents, and a life of centuries to work in. He says:—

My idea of a great statesman is one who represents a great idea. That may lead him to power. To connect himself with a great idea, to develop it, to impress it upon the mind and conscience of a nation, makes a man a great statesman. I do not care whether he is a manufacturer, or a manufacturer's son; he would, by such a course, attain a sublime and heroic position. But I care not what may be the position of a man who never originates an idea—who watches the atmosphere (a laugh)—who takes his observation—and when he finds the wind in a certain quarter, trims in that way (laughter); I don't care how high his position may be, but the man who does not gain that position by developing and advocating an idea, and a great principle, may be a powerful Minister, but he is not a great statesman.

If this is the true definition of a "great statesman," the world never had one; it has been ruled by nothing but great Ministers. "Great ideas" are rare, even rarer than great men, and when enunciated are long in winning their way, for the "mind and conscience of a nation" are not reached so easily nor so soon. No author of a great idea ever lived to see it fully developed; that is the work of ages, not of a single life. Reckoning up all the great statesmen whose names are recorded, we know not one who was other than a strong-minded man, dealing in the most practical manner with the circumstances around him, often by means the most detestable. Richelieu raised the power of the French Crown by crushing the Aristocracy: his means were the headsman and the scaffold. Walpole, in another age, disarmed his enemies by plain, vulgar bribery. In all times Rulers have been as far removed from perfection as the ruled. Not one has ever originated a great idea, and worked it out in his government. The utmost they have done was to guide and direct tendencies they found existing, but did not make.

Cromwell fell upon an age which had long begun to question the principle of "right divine," and found wild theories of Government and religion fermenting in society, long before the outbreak of the storm that levelled the Monarchy with the dust. Napoleon appeared when anarchy had done its worst, and he imposed on the disorder of the social chaos the only organisation the enthusiasm of the age and people would bear—a military one. The French Revolution was not his idea; but history presents many examples of States with a military Government. "Great ideas" are no sudden flashes of national inspiration; not so does the world progress; great changes there are, but the principle that produces them is often a very old one. Reform and the Abolition of Slavery were questions debated for more than half a century; they were great measures, but not great ideas, since they were but the natural practical remedies of existing evils. The principles of the

science of political economy, which are now becoming the basis of legislation, have been known to the world for ages; more than a hundred and twenty years have elapsed since Adam Smith was born—yet how strongly opposed are many of his doctrines by large numbers of educated men, even at the present day! No; we must give up the hope of being governed by statesmen of "great ideas;" we must trust to "Ministers" (to adopt Mr. Disraeli's distinction) who can practically meet the necessities of their age, since we live in times, and exist in a country, that present problems to be solved for which no former theories of Government can afford us a guide. Measures, and how they work, must be the consideration now, rather than "Men, and what they think," for it is an age that prefers action to speculation.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

The seasons alter; hoary-headed frosts
Fall in the fresh lap of the crimson rose,
And on old Hyern's chin and icy crown
An odorous chaplet of sweet summer buds
Is as in mockery set: the spring, the summer,
The chilling autumn, angry winter, change
Their wonted liveries.

SHAKESPEARE.

A season, open beyond all precedent, gives promise of a stirrup-cup such as has not often been quaffed by modern Nimrods. During the current week we had opportunities of seeing the state of more than one of the metropolitan hunting districts, which resembled little oceans rather than places appropriated to woodcraft. Before Christmas, in many of the crack counties, "enough" was the order of the day; and, unless we have a speedy frost or less ruthless riding among the ambitious of first flight places, hunting establishments will have full larders. The stanch hunter, as well as the unsound valetudinarian, should bear in mind the old saw—"A green Christmas makes a full church-yard." . . . A master of hounds once asked his huntsman "what could be the reason the scent was so bad?" to which the servant replied, "he couldn't tell—unless it was along of the stinking of the violets." It will probably be told of the season of 1846, that a master asking a huntsman "why he didn't catch his fox?" was answered, "because he hadn't a steamboat for the view holloa!" The chase—except after puss upon the Sussex downs, or "in Cumberland among the hills"—is for the present restricted to the amphibious; or persons "with a decided turn for the sea."

Coursing is in a similar category—and as for steeple-chasing, unless performed on snow shoes, no horse but Pegasus could keep his nose above the surface of the earth. Consternation prevails at Gunter's and among the manufacturers of skates: they look in each other's faces—blue with anxiety instead of frost, and tremulously ask, "Is there to be no ice?" They haunt the glympses of Covent Garden, and see the funeral wreck of their hopes—odorous chaplets of sweet summer buds. So gloomy is the instant condition of out-door sports—we say nothing of balls and soirées, but this, that, if people must dance with the temperature where it is, for the sake of personal grace and comfort it's a pity the polka has superseded the minuet.

Turn we to the theory of sporting, since its practice is forbidden by so many considerations. The turf is the only resource of the gentleman of enterprise and spirit—and even that has "had its crosses." The other other day Tattersall's was too hot to hold the subscribers, and they were constrained to adjourn to the Circle. Perhaps they may find that too warm for them between this and the settling for the St. Leger.

The spring handicaps are out for the Newmarket in the Craven Meeting; 66 have declared forfeit of the 184 named. Where are those who have left their nominations in, to find jockeys at weights averaging under 7st.? The Chester Cup is the great fact of the market: it has always, heretofore, been fertile in excitement—we write for eyes polite—and, no doubt, will be properly flavoured on its next anniversary. Who are the principal manufacturers of handicaps? It is essential they should be made known, that they may be avoided in future; as Brummel said to the "gent," when he asked him the name and address of his tailor. Those who love racing for the sport, have had their hearts made glad by the prospect of a spirited day's operations in the Epsom Spring Meeting, as it is called—which occurs this year on Friday, the 3rd of April. The Licensed Victuallers have come forward and catered for the public, as becomes the patent purveyors of this great city. We announced, some weeks ago, the good work they had undertaken: happy are we to say, their success has equalled their desert.

The Great Metropolitan Stakes will be a dish to set before a King; worthy the artists employed upon them. Sir Gilbert Heathcote and the inhabitants between them supply the Plates: so it will be seen all the necessary materials for a feast are provided. Who shall gainsay the proverb wherein it is written, "when things come to the worst they mend?" Here is a society of good Samaritans furnishing fun for nothing, and a Prime Minister offering food for the million under prime cost, while the ears of the hungry are yet tingling with the bill of fare proposed for their consideration by one of the heirs of the country's wisdom.

Shakespeare complains that man "receives comfort like cold porridge;" hence, probably, the Duke of Norfolk concluded he would be ready to jump at it in the shape of a hot curry. Why should not philosophy, like charity, be doubly blessed? And wherefore should it not be lawful for us to say to those who go through a process of semi-drowning twice a week (to say nothing of by-days) with the Royal stag-hounds—"Take comfort, gentlemen, there will be dust enough to smother you at Ascot Races?" . . .

TATTERSALL'S.

MONDAY.—The Chester Cup was the source of some heavy speculation, and three or four animals, supposed to be "well in" and therefore greatly fancied, became "rattling" favourites; these were Best Bower, Whinstone, Miss Burns, and Sweetmeat. The outlay was heavy, and the commissions apparently unlimited. Micky Free and that impostor, Cataract, were also in some favour with select parties. The Newmarket Handicap was scarcely mentioned, and the Derby movements were too few and inconsequential to call for a remark.

6 to 1 agst The Irish lot (t)	30 to 1 agst Micky Free (t)	40 to 1 agst Hope (t)
7 to 1 — The Three-year-olds (t)	30 to 1 — Miss Burns	40 to 1 — The Baron
20 to 1 — Best Bower	35 to 1 — Warp	40 to 1 — Eboracum
25 to 1 — Whinstone	40 to 1 — Cataract (t)	40 to 1 — Mermad (t)
	40 to 1 — Sweetmeat (t)	50 to 1 — Roderick (t)
DERBY.		
5 to 1 agst Scott's lot (t)	25 to 1 agst Spithhead	33 to 1 agst Traverser
6 to 1 — Sting (t)	25 to 1 — Iago	50 to 1 — Sheraton (t)
14 to 1 — Brocardo (t)	50 to 1 — Malcolm	
OAKS.		
12 to 1 agst Vanish (t)	25 to 1 agst Cestus filly	
16 to 1 — Queen Anne (t)	30 to 1 — Fantasio (t)	

THURSDAY.—Another busy day—that is for a Thursday. The great guns for the Chester Cup were Sweetmeat and Micky Free, both lions at Manchester in the early part of the week, and therefore in great force with the metropolitans. To what extent their positions were improved may be seen below. A good deal of money was laid out on other nags, but without leading to any material changes. Very little was done on the Derby; and the Oaks betting was remarkable only for the extreme anxiety to back Fantasio. We submit the closing prices:—

20 to 1 agst Sweetmeat (t)	35 to 1 agst Hope	1000 to 20 agst Vitula (t)
22 to 1 — Micky Free	40 to 1 — Mermad (t)	1000 to 15 — Gamcock (t)
25 to 1 — Best Bower	40 to 1 — Warp (t)	1000 to 15 — Redstick (t)
25 to 1 — Miss Burns	1000 to 15 agst Salopian (taken freely)	1000 to 15 — Roderick (t)
25 to 1 — Whinstone		
DERBY.		
5 to 1 agst Sting	25 to 1 agst Iago	50 to 1 agst Tibthorpe (t)
15 to 1 — Brocardo	25 to 1 — Malcolm	
OAKS.		
11 to 1 agst Vanish	20 to 1 agst Fantasio	1000 to 30 agst Perdita (t)
20 to 1 — Cuckoo (t)	1000 to 30 — Mowrina (t)	1000 to 50 — Mendicant (t)

TROTTING MATCH.—A trotting match took place last Tuesday, on Sunbury Common for £50 a-side, between Mr. Jenks's bay horse and Mr. Graves's chestnut horse, five miles, which was gallantly contested, they going neck and neck the first two miles, when the bay broke, and the chestnut went a-head; but it was the first time, when the bay having passed him in the next mile. They then trotted home in capital style, the chestnut striving to pass him again, but could not get his head further than the stock of his opponent's wheel. Owners driving; time 17 minutes 16 seconds. Afterwards the party dined at Mr. R. Powell's, the Bell, Hampton, and enjoyed themselves till rather a late hour.

THE ROYAL STAG HOUNDS.—About one hundred were at the Meet on Wednesday, at Farnham Common—many more than could have been expected, from the unfavourable state of the weather, and the heavy nature of the country. The "Richmond" Stag, upon being uncared near the Three Households, in the direction of Beaconsfield, through Mr. Hare's farm to the Thatch Households, on to Chalfont St. Giles, leaving the village to the left, and thence through the Vatch, crossing Charley Wood Common, to Rickmansworth; and was there taken, after a very fast run of an hour and three quarters, over a fair hunting country. The Stag, keeping on the high lands, avoided the water, which covered the valleys and low grounds in every direction.

POSTSCRIPT.

SIR R. PEELE'S PLAN, AND ITS RESULTS.

On Thursday, the Central Agricultural Society, under the presidency of his Grace the Duke of Richmond, held a special meeting for the purpose of considering the Ministerial scheme, and the following resolutions and recommendations were unanimously agreed to:—"That the Society views with the utmost alarm the proposed measures of Sir Robert Peel for establishing free importation, and withdrawal of protection from the productive classes. That this Society feels convinced that the results of such measures would produce a revolution of such fearful extent as to involve not only the agricultural but the other productive classes of this country in certain ruin. It is recommended to the country and local Protection Societies, that they do immediately form committees, of not more than twelve gentlemen, to wait upon the members in their several districts, who were elected on Protective principles, and press them either to reject the proposal of Sir Robert Peel, or at once to resign their seats, and appeal to their different constituencies for a sanction of the change in their political opinions."

A meeting of the council of the Anti-Corn-law League took place at Manchester, on Thursday morning, to consider the steps it is necessary to take upon the intended measures of the Premier in reference to the Corn-laws. George Wilson, Esq., presided. It is understood that an animated discussion took place, in which there was a unanimous feeling displayed that the measure of the Premier would not meet the exigencies of the present emergency, and that it was a temporising policy, unworthy of a statesman confessedly converted to the impolicy of any longer maintaining prohibitive or protective laws. A resolution was come to, which was to the effect that the announcement of a new Corn-law rendered it desirable that the friends of Free-Trade throughout the kingdom should be invited to originate petitions for the total and immediate abolition of the Corn and Provision Laws.

A letter from Oakham, dated Jan. 29, says:—"The proceedings in the House of Commons on Tuesday evening, have already led to a vacancy in one of the seats for Rutlandshire. The Hon. Mr. Dawnay, who was returned at the last election, to support protection in opposition to Viscount Campden (also a Protectionist, but a Liberal), has, in deference to the feelings of the agriculturist constituency, determined on accepting the Chiltern Hundreds. It is believed that Lord Exeter has entirely disconnected himself from the Peel Cabinet."

At a meeting of the Nottinghamshire Agricultural Protection Society, held on Thursday, a letter was read from Lord Lincoln, announcing his Lordship's change of opinion on the Corn-laws, when Mr. Stenton proposed the following resolution, viz.:—"That this meeting, having heard from the Earl of Lincoln that he is prepared to support the measures of Sir R. Peel, instructs the committee immediately to forward to his Lordship a copy of certain resolutions, and to request him to take the only step consistent with public honour, by resigning his seat as member for South Nottinghamshire." Mr. Chowler seconded the motion, which was carried with loud applause.

Lord John Manners has addressed a letter to the electors of Newark, in which he says:—"So far as I know, there is no reason why Sir Robert Peel should be the Minister to propose in this Parliament a repeal of the Corn-laws, nor the House of Commons of 1841, the House of Commons to which it should be proposed; and, entirely apart from the merits or demerits of Free-Trade, I regard the proposal of such a measure by Sir Robert Peel to this present House of Commons with feelings of the deepest regret and alarm—regret that, at a time when the Executive Government requires all the support it can honestly receive, its measures should be so proposed as to alienate, rather than conciliate, such support; and alarm, at the prospect before us."

PRIVY COUNCIL.—Her Majesty held a Privy Council at Buckingham Palace yesterday, at half-past two o'clock, which was attended by most of the Ministers and great officers of state.

ANOTHER ACCIDENT ON THE EASTERN COUNTIES RAILWAY.—An accident took place on Wednesday at Milton-bridge, about two miles from Canterbury, on that portion of the South Eastern (Canterbury Branch) Railway which forms the approach from Ashford, and which occasioned the loss of a life. The late heavy rains sapped the new brickwork, and caused about forty feet of the approach to a bridge to give way: one of the workmen employed was buried in the ruins, and two others were slightly hurt. Lamentable as the accident in itself was, the loss might have been more deplorable, as a good many men were engaged near the spot. A Coroner's Inquest was held at Canterbury, and the Jury brought in a verdict of "Accidental death." Deodand is on the materials.

LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.

ALGERIA.—The Paris journals of Wednesday contain further accounts from Algeria, by which it appears that Marshal Bugeaud had been compelled, from want of provisions, and the exhausted state of his troops, to make a retrograde movement. All idea of further operations of importance against Abd-el-Kader seems, therefore, to have been abandoned for the remainder of the winter.

COLLISION ON THE EASTERN COUNTIES RAILWAY.—On Sunday a serious collision occurred on this line of railway, though happily unattended with disaster to life or limb. Shortly after one o'clock the luggage train for London was stopped for awhile at Stanstead, in order to let the wheels cool, as the axles had become overheated from the friction. Before the train could proceed a passenger train arrived, and, as it is said, through some mistake of the signal-men, in showing a wrong light, ran into the luggage train, completely smashing a truck laden with flour, and breaking in another in which were cattle intended for the London market, and also inflicting considerable injury on the engines belonging to both trains. The damage to the property of the Company is considerable, the rails having been much bent, and several of the sleepers destroyed.—An investigation took place at Newport, on Thursday, before the county magistrates, it being alleged that the accident at Stanstead arose from the neglect of Mr. John King, the late station-master there. The result was that the defendant was committed for trial at the Quarter Sessions.

GRAND MARRIAGE FESTIVITIES AT CAIRO.

Cairo has lately been the scene of the magnificent marriage festivities of Mehemet Ali's daughter with Kiamil Pasha. The event is said to have cost Mehemet Ali half-a-million sterling; and, in giving the orders for the expenditure, he is said to have exclaimed, in the true Caliph style, "This is the last folly I will ever commit."

But who is the fortunate bridegroom of the Viceroy's daughter? The Times correspondent tells us that "Kiamil Pasha is approaching 40 years of age, of the humblest origin, and a native of Arabkir, in Armenia. He went to Egypt in his youth, and has gradually risen in rank and the favour of the Pasha to his present eminent position, in spite of a great deal of opposition and intrigue, by the simple honesty and sincerity of his character. His office is that of Wekeel, or personal commissioner of the Pasha; and although he has never been in Europe or received any Frank education, the sound practical sense he displays on every occasion has acquired for him a solid reputation. When we say that to this he adds the most popular and affable manners, it may safely be predicted that he will henceforth play a principal part in the affairs of Egypt."

Some weeks since we read of the costly presents sent to the bridegroom. Thus, the Sultan forwarded by his Ambassador, a snuff-box and a Turkish pipe, both richly studded with precious stones; and to the bride a magnificent tiara or diadem. The Sultan's mother sent two splendid pipes, a rosary, and a bouquet of precious stones to the young couple. At the same time, the Sultan sent to the Viceroy a handsome sword set in diamonds.

To borrow an European phrase of some antiquity, "in the memory of the oldest inhabitant," no such magnificence has been seen at Cairo, which was then, indeed "Grand."

The first day of the festivities (which in all lasted six days) there was a grand banquet at the Citadel of 800 covers, at four tables, at which the Viceroy, the Pashas, the Consul-Generals, and high dignitaries were present.

The ladies were admitted to a magnificent supper given by the eldest daughter of the Pasha, widow of the late Deftardar (Lord Treasurer), where, including the slaves, not less than 3500 women, from all nations, &c., were present, and it is said 300 covers were employed to prepare this stupendous feast. The female slaves performed music during the repast, and afterwards pipes, sherbets, kees, &c., were handed round, during which all sorts of dances were performed—Greek, Arabic, Bedouin, &c.—and the last was an European quadrille and waltz.

Some of the European ladies remained three days and three nights in the harem, where they were provided with everything they could desire.

The whole town was illuminated, fireworks were exhibited on the public squares, mountebags, circuses, and theatres were erected for the public, and a horse race took place the second day.

The Pasha had at the Citadel a theatre erected for the occasion, which he himself attended with his whole Court, and a separate box was kept for the Consul-Generals. Italian operas, French vaudevilles, and Italian dramas, were performed.

An English lady present asserts that she never expected or thought that so many diamonds and precious stones existed in any one country. There were 16 English ladies present.

The description of the nocturnal celebrations, by the Times' Correspondent, is very graphic:—

"At each sunset, all Cairo was in a blaze of illumination. The Eybekieh became like six Vauxhalls; every tree had its many coloured lamps, and an avenue of transparent arches and columns, reaching right across its thick verdant plantations, seemed from the roofs of the bordering houses to have enchanted it into a carpet of green and gold. But far transcending the theatrical brilliancy of the Eybekieh was the aspect of the fantastic minarets of the mosques of the best period of Saracenic architecture, shooting up into the dark sky by the light of thousands of rockets and millions of lamps. There was the glare of crescents for that stern and gloomy old Bab-Zueilieh, the Temple-Bar of Cairo's Strand and Fleet-street, with the maces of the old time hanging to remind the modern Calireen that the race of iron-hand-and-hearted Moslems is extinct; the Mehemet Ali's and Ibrahim Pashas being the exceptions that form the rule. Further along this great artery my eyes caught the alternate lines of white and red of the elegant monuments of two Kalaons, which recall a period so fertile with events, that we shall not pardon M. Quatremere if he delays the continuation of his fascinating illustrations of those times. The Citadel was one blaze of light, which shone with full force on the majestic proportions of the mosque of Sultan Hassan. Here giant simplicity towering stage on stage effaces from the mind all other objects, save and except the temple of Moyad. Had Arab architecture united the seductive grace of Moyad with the masses of Sultan Hassan, Michael Angelo himself might have schooled in the East."



GRAND MARRIAGE FESTIVITIES AT CAIRO.—THE PASHA'S SONS.

The Marriage Processions were very splendid; and our artist has represented two of these joyous pageants. The bride, it should be explained, lived in the Palace of the "Citadel." The new residence for the bride and bridegroom is a reconstruction of the Belt Elfy Bey, on the Eybekieh, which was the residence of Napoleon during the French invasion, and which then formed two *corps de logis*, marked "Quartier-General" and "Maison du Général-en-Chief" in the French plan of Cairo, the present palace having been occupied by Mehemet Bey, the Dettardar of Egypt, and son-in-law of Mehemet Ali, who died many years

ago. It has been newly furnished in the most sumptuous manner with Lyons satin damask hangings, the principal selamlie having two pier glasses, each 15 feet high, being the largest ever seen in the East.

"It was through the line of bazaars lying between the two Palaces that the marriage processions passed, the diamonds lying in their caskets, or mounted on the marriage presents, literally blazing in the resplendent sunshine of a Cairo noon. The procession of the eighth day, conducting the bride from the citadel to the palace assigned to Kiamel Pasha, presented the oddest contrast imaginable.

Immediately after the crack regiment of Cuirassiers, composed of picked men, superbly mounted and accoutred, with their drawn sabres and casques of burnished steel, came an army of eunuchs, to escort the carriages of the bride and her companions, all the blinds being, as a matter of course, drawn closely down."

In the foreground of our first Illustration are the Pasha's sons, and the "crack Cuirassiers." The second scene is the bridal equipage on the Eighth Day. It was, altogether, such a spectacle as is rarely witnessed.



GRAND MARRIAGE FESTIVITIES AT CAIRO.—THE BRIDE CONDUCTED FROM THE CITADEL TO THE PALACE.



AGRICULTURAL PICTURES.—THE STRAW-YARD, BERKSHIRE.

AGRICULTURAL PICTURES.—JANUARY.

THE STRAW-YARD.

We here present to our Readers the commencement of a Series of Illustrations of the Agricultural occupations of "the rolling year." The specimen before us is from the highly artistical pencil of Mr. Duncan, and is a scene of actual life—not a painter's composition. The locality is in the neighbourhood of Reading, in Berkshire.

Touching the business of the scene, we may quote the following appropriate passage from Mr. Henry Stephens's valuable "Book of the Farm:"—

"Almost the entire live-stock of an arable farm is dependent on the hand of man for food in winter. It is this circumstance which, bringing the stock into the immediate presence of their owner, creates a stronger interest in their welfare than at any other season. The farmer then sees them classed together in the farmstead according to their age and sex, and delights to contemplate the comparative progress of individuals or classes amongst them towards maturity."

There is a charm, too, in the wintry landscape, which rarely fails to strike the wayside observer. One of the most descriptive of Cobbett's

"Rural Rides" is almost entirely devoted to what may be termed a rhapsody on the beautiful forms of trees in winter, and the graceful varieties of the bare-bough season. The natural phenomena of the time, too, are interesting. Thomson sings:

All Nature feels the renovating force
Of WINTER, only to the thoughtless eye
In ruin seen. The frost-concocted glebe
Draws in abundant vegetable soul,
And gathers vigour for the coming year.

Bloomfield, too, thus chronicles the seasonable pursuits:—

When now, unsparing as the scourge of war,
Blast follows blast, and groves dismantled roar,
Around their home the storm-pinch'd cattle lows,
No nourishment in frozen pasture grows;
Yet frozen pastures every morn resound
With fair abundance thund'ring to the ground.
For though on hoary twigs no buds peep out,
And e'en the hardy brambles cease to sprout,
Beneath dread Winter's level sheets of snow
The sweet nutritious Turnip deigns to grow.
Till now imperious want, and wide-spread dearth,
Bid Labour claim her treasures from the earth.

On Giles, and such as Giles, the labour falls,
To strew the frequent load where hunger calls."

"THE TERRIBLE," WAR-STEAMER

This noble steam-ship is in commission, and now fitting for sea at Woolwich; she has 20 guns mounted, also a brass field piece and carriage, and a waggon for powder to accompany it. On her upper deck, each side the bow, are two long 56-pounders, (Monk's 11-foot guns,) to fire fore and aft in a line with the keel; these are mounted on a slide, and will cross fire with each other, and also sweep round to the sides; two more of the same guns, right aft in the stern, will also cross and sweep to the broadside on their pivot, so as to fire forward, acting as chase guns if required. She has two 68-pounders on each broadside, to carry shells or solid shot, which can be trained fore or abaft, according to circumstances. On the deck below, which is also flush fore and aft, are eight guns, viz. two long 56-pounders, (Monk's guns, 11 feet long,) in the bow ports, to fire in a line with the keel; also several degrees of training on the broadsides, and two of the same guns in the stern, right aft, which can give such depression as to prevent even a small boat from coming under her stern; with four guns, 68-pounders, on her broadsides, for shells or solid shot. There are four smaller guns on the upper deck, to be traversed to any place, or carried on shore in her paddle-box boats, if required for use in landing troops, &c.

She has four separate boilers, independent of each other, which may be connected when required; four funnels, one to each boiler; the two after ones strike



"THE TERRIBLE," WAR-STEAMER, IN THE BASIN, AT WOOLWICH DOCKYARD.

down, so as to allow a square mainsail to be set when sailing, and still using the two foremost booms, thus working half her power at the same time, saving a considerable consumption of coals. This is an excellent contrivance, as there are four small funnels, instead of one large one, which is a great advantage, as the ship will not be wholly disabled by losing one, two, or even three funnels, like the one-funnel ship would be on hers being carried away; her one funnel lost, she has lost all.

The *Terrible* has two magazines, and two shell-rooms, one of each before the engine-room, and one abaft for the safety of the vessel, to prevent any powder passing the engine-room when firing the guns. She can store 400 tons of coals below the lower deck, and is prepared on the midship part of the deck to take 200 or 300 tons more, packed in bags, as a defence from shot to the engines and boilers, filling up a space of 18 feet. In addition to her thick, substantial, solid sides, she has good capacity, and if required for any particular service can carry more coal in sacks.

With regard to the conveyance of troops, she can berth 1000 men under cover, on her second gun-deck, independent of her ship's company, their berth being below, forward, and the officers' cabins, gun-room, &c., abaft; so that each gun-deck is entirely clear, and always ready for action, without removing a bulkhead, and the deck being perfectly free from the captain's cabin abaft, to the bow of the vessel. She is constructed in the strongest and most substantial manner, on Mr. Lang's improved method of uniting the frame timbers, making her perfectly water-tight, so that she would swim, even if her external keel and plank were off her bottom. This method is also adopted in the *Royal Albert*, 120 guns, now in her frame, and may be seen on the slip in Woolwich dockyard.

The engine-room of the *Terrible* is most splendid; on deck, the whole length of the engine-room, are gratings, open and well ventilated by hatchways, giving light and air to the engineers, stokers, &c. It is an admirable plan, such as no steamer as yet has the advantage of; and each boiler has a separate hatchway, and may be readily taken out for repair, without interfering with the other boilers. This method, of Mr. Lang's invention, prevents the necessity of ripping up the deck, which is the case with other steamers when the boilers are required to be taken out from those vessels, and there, too, the deck covering the boilers, the engineers and stokers have the light admitted by the hatchway over the engines only.

The *Terrible's* engines are 800 horse-power, by Maudslays, Sons, and Field, and show to advantage in this large war-steamer. Her decks have hatchways in various parts, scuttles, skylights, &c., for ventilating the ship even to the lower parts of her hull; and there are many other conveniences too numerous to mention, contributing to the efficiency of the ship and the comforts of the officers and crew, so that she may be said to be the largest and most perfect war-steamer ever built. The *Terrible* is commanded by Captain Ramsay, late of the *Dee* steam-vessel, and she is to have a complement of 240 officers, men and boys—*Nautical Standard*.

The paddle-wheels of this stupendous steamer are 34 feet in diameter; and when experimentally turned in the basin, a few days since, they so agitated the water, as to put all the vessels in active motion around her, causing them to jump and toss about like little cock-boats, tearing the timbers by which they were fastened to the shore from their sides, and otherwise damaging the vessels moored alongside the quay; and, when the *Terrible* broke from her lashings, she went ahead and brought down some of the stone-work of the basin.

A GOSSIP ABOUT THE CORN-LAWS.

The riddle of the week is read. Sir Robert has, for once in his life, been bold and open. He has thrown over the principle of Protection, made Cobden an oracle, and flung the country gentlemen, cruelly and remorselessly, into the Slough of Despond. Still there is tenderness in the way he handles these venerable relics of a by-gone system. They are to linger in life for three years, then to depart, unblest and we hope, even by Dukes and farmers, unregretted. This Sir Robert means for kindness, but it is a cruel mercy; it is only prolonging the anticipatory agonies of those who believe that with Corn-laws must fall Church, State, Constitution, Funds, Law, and everything that is worth preserving in England. It is like granting a reprieve of three days to an unhappy convict when he has made up his mind to take the dance upon nothing to-morrow morning, that he may learn to like his destiny by thinking of it. The Duke of Richmond will be haunted by the phantom of this ghost of Protection, stalking about with its three years lease of upper air, and dining into his ear the horrid tale of Peel's treachery and unnatural murder of this most ill-treated of enactments. We could write a political "Hamlet," the characters to run somewhat thus:—

<i>Claudius, King of Denmark</i> ...	Sir Robert Peel.
<i>Hamlet</i> ...	The Duke of Richmond.
<i>Ophelia</i> ...	Sir John Tyrell.
<i>Horatio</i> ...	The Duke of Buckingham.
<i>Polonius</i> ...	The Duke of Newcastle.
<i>Ghost</i> ...	The Sliding Scale.

The scene on the platform in which *Hamlet* holds discourse with the *Ghost*, might run, with the necessary alterations, in this fashion:—

SCENE.—The Agricultural Society's Rooms, 17, Bond-street.

Re-enter GHOST OF SLIDING SCALE and the DUKE OF RICHMOND.

Duke. Whither will Peel lead us? Speak—I'll go no further.

Ghost of Sliding-Scale. Mark me!

Duke. I will!

Ghost. My hour is almost come, When I to Cobden and tormenting Bright Must render up myself!

Duke. Alas, poor Ghost!

Ghost. Pity me not; but lend thy serious hearing To what I shall unfold.

Duke. Speak—I am bound to hear.

Ghost. So art thou to revenge when thou shalt hear.

Duke. Speak!

Ghost. I am Protection's Ghost, Doom'd for three years to live as Sliding Scale, And to come down from ten shillings per quarter, Till, when thy price is up to fifty-three, To four I fade away. But that I am forbid To tell the secrets of the Commons' House, I could a tale unfold, whose startling facts Would make the country blush; shock all the 'squires; Fright e'en the Dukes—those stars among the Peers; Make savage and combined clubs to part, And each particular member stand aghast— Like France before our fierce Militia-men! But such a tale of scandal must be hid! Printed in black and white. List! list! oh, list! If thou didst ever thy dear Corn-law love, Resist Free-Trade—that most infernal humbug!

Duke. Humbug!

Ghost. Humbug most foul, as humbug always is; But this, of all humbugs, the most infernal.

Duke. Teach me to show it—that I, with phrase as glib As Mr. Cobden's, or the tongue of Bright, May talk in market towns.

Ghost. I find thee apt; And duller should'st thou be than the fat pig That wins the prize with ease in Baker-street. Would'st thou not stir in this? Now, Richmond, hear, 'Tis given out that, talking through the country, The Leaguers killed me—saying that the Duke Shall be, by forged votes of Corn League freeholders, Swamped out and out. But know, thou noble man, The Villain that did floor the Sliding-scale, Now guides the Crown!

Duke. Oh! my prophetic soul! Sir Robert!

Ghost. Ay, that low-man—the Cotton-spinner's son! With offerings of place, fat sinecures (But sinecures and places have the power So to seduce), won to his Free-trade schemes The votes of our most seeming active friends. Oh, Richmond! what a falling-off was there! From me—who have kept prices at that height, That they maintained your rents, even at the pitch They reached to with war prices—they to condescend Unto Free-Trade, whose good to them is poor, Compared with mine!

But, soft! methinks I hear St. James's clock— Brief let me be: whilst I kept up your prices, My custom always, in bad years, or good, Upon our cause, a march the Premier stole, With talk of blighted 'tater-crops and famine, And, thro' the columns of the press, did pour Commissioners' reports—whose vile effect Made such a row among all sorts of men

That, in a bed-post's twinkling, it ran through The provinces and manufacturing body, And gave a sudden vigour to the League, Which always showed the greatest want of taste For thin and wholesome food—such food as mine. And those incessant talkers barked about The curry-powder, Norfolk's new found food For peasants' bodies! So was I, half upset by Leaguers' hands, And then, by Peel's new scheme outright despatched; Cut off, even at a time when corn was cheap, Uncompensated, unprepared, unloved, No care for you and your unpaid accounts, The country's suffering laid upon my head! Oh! rascally—oh! rascally—most rascally! If you have pluck and money, bear it not; Let not the noble land of England be A place of cotton-mills and devil's-dust. But howsoever thou pitchest into Peel, Respect the Iron Duke! Leave him his proxies. As for the taunts of you, his brother Peers, They cannot sting him. Fare thee well, at once! If you put up with this, you soon will be Out of the frying-pan into the fire. Adieu! adieu! adieu! Remember me.

[Exit Ghost of Sliding Scale. The Duke remains in an attitude of mingled despair and disgust.]

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"T. A. D."—We have answered the same questions fifty times. You should refer to the Laws of Chess.

"W. K."—Hayes—Study the Elementary Lessons in the "Chess Player's Chronicle." You can have two or more Queens on the board at once.

"Z."—Southampton.—If, in Problem 103, the Black King is moved to Q 3rd, White obviously mates with his Q at K 3rd.

"H. W. M."—In the position sent, the Black King cannot take the Rook.

"Περικλεους."—Cambridge.—Decidedly drawn, it appears to us.

"M. E. B."—It should have been "Pawn takes Pawn en passant, or in passing." The Duke of Wellington is a Chess Player.

"Christopher M."—Edinburgh.—The position is certainly curious. You would check with the Kt, and then play it to K 3rd to imprison the Queen, after which all is easy enough.

"A Slow Coach."—We cannot at the moment give an opinion upon your new notation. It appears very simple; and, for the purpose of transcribing games while they were being played, would doubtless be useful.

"S. S." and "E. H. C."—Hull.—The work you name is immeasurably inferior, as a text-book, to either "Heydebrand's Hand-buch," or "Jaenisch's Treatise on the Openings."

"Silvio Pellico."—Unquestionably drawn.

"C. B. W."—We have not space to give the Solution in 17 moves, which you require; but you will find it at the end of Vol. I. of the "Chess Player's Chronicle," in which the Problem first appeared.

"W. P. T."—In our next we shall probably give the result of the match between Messrs. Stanley and Rousseau. Our last intelligence gave an account of the play to Saturday, Dec. 20th, when, in all, 23 games had been got through—Mr. Stanley winning ten, Mr. Rousseau seven, and six having been drawn.

"Z. Q. W."—We have no knowledge of the new game—Chess for four persons.

"G. S. C. M."—Buy Tomlinson's "Amusements in Chess."

"W. H. A."—The notation adopted in the translation of M. Heydebrand's great work is that used in the Chess articles of this Journal. You may readily solve the problem alluded to by first moving Kt to K 4th (ch); then, King to his 2nd; and, finally, B to Q 6th.

"True Chess."—Strictly speaking, you are right; but some latitude has been claimed by problem makers from time immemorial.

"Biribi."—You must give no credence to the reports of the French papers on the subject of the great Chess Match between England and France. So far from M. St. Amant having been victorious, he was beaten without a chance.

"Chessophiles."—There is no error in the position of the pieces in Problem 104. Look again, and you will find that if the King take the Queen, mate can be effected in fewer moves.

"Lolli."—We cannot consent to reprint the blindfold games you mention. They were probably obtained at some cost and trouble, and are, therefore, the rightful property of the newspaper in which they appeared.

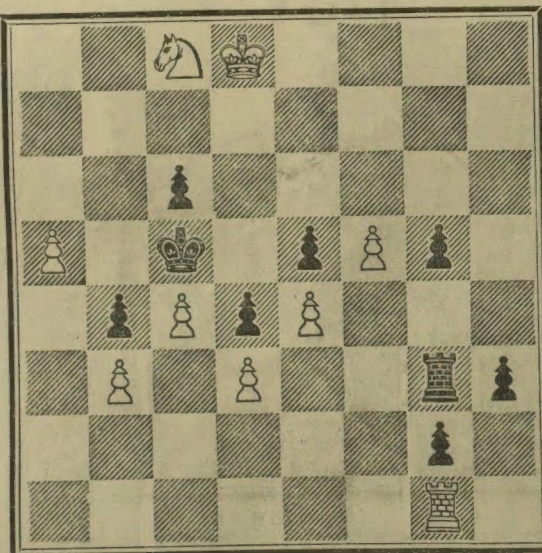
Solutions by "Wm. W."—"J. M." Leads; "An Amateur," "R. T."—"The Captain," "G. W."—"E. M."—"H. C. M."—"E. W. R."—"Shropshire," "A. L."—"Holham," "E. C."—"Phillip," "D."—"A. and J. Wallace," "Peon," "Alpha," "R. T."—"Cantab"; "C. B. W."—"Tippoo Saib," "Cosmo," "J. G."—"R. M. C."—"Twig," and "A Member of the Jersey Club," are correct. Those by "M. E. B."—"Sir G. S." (who will find his former solution acknowledged as correct in our last), "Dr. W."—"Cantab," "F. R. S." and "A Slow Coach," are wrong.

PROBLEM NO. 106.

From the MS. Problems contributed by M. Anderssen, of Breslau.

White to play first and mate in three moves.

BLACK.



WHITE.

THE GREAT CHESS MATCH IN AMERICA.

GAME THE SEVENTH.

WHITE (Stanley).	BLACK (Rousseau).	WHITE (Stanley).	BLACK (Rousseau).
1. K P two	K P two	19. K R to Q sq	Kt takes B
2. K Kt to B 3rd	Q Kt to B 3rd	20. Q takes Kt	Kt to K 5th
3. K B to Q B 4th	K B to Q B 4th	21. Kt to K sq	Q R to K 3rd
4. Q P one	Q P one	22. Q to K 3rd	R to K Kt 3rd
5. K R P one	K R to B 3rd	23. Kt to K Kt 2nd	K B P two †
6. Q Kt to B 3rd	Q B to K 3rd	24. Q P one	K B P takes P †
7. B to Kt 3rd	K R P one	25. B takes P	Kt to K 3rd
8. Q Kt to K 2nd	Q Kt to K 2nd	26. B to K 5th	K to R sq
9. Q Kt to K Kt 3rd	Q to Q 2	27. B takes Q	R takes Q
10. Q B P one	Q Kt to K Kt 3rd	28. Kt to R 4th	K R takes Kt (ch)
11. Q B to K 3rd	B to Q Kt 3rd	29. P takes R	R takes P (ch)
12. Q to her 2nd	Castles, on K side	30. K to R 2d	R takes P (ch)
13. Castles, on K side	Q R to K sq	31. K takes R	Kt takes Q P
14. K B to Q B 2nd	Q B P two	32. K R to K B sq	Kt to K 3rd
15. Q R P two	K B to Q B 2nd	33. K to Kt 4th	Kt to K 5th
16. Q B P one	Q takes K R P †	34. R takes Kt	P takes R
17. P takes B	Q takes P	35. Kt to Kt 6th (ch)	K to R 2nd
18. Q to K 2nd	K Kt to his 5th	36. K to B 5th	

Black abandons the Game.

* We should have ventured on taking the K R P at once.
† This Pawn might have been more advantageously taken three or four moves earlier, it appears to us.
‡ K R P one, with a view to regain the lost piece, would have been better play.
§ It was a great error, we think, to give White's B an inlet. Why not have taken Kt with Kt, and thus have won a piece in return for that sacrificed?

GAME THE EIGHTH.

WHITE (Rousseau).	BLACK (Stanley).	WHITE (Rousseau).	BLACK (Stanley).
1. K P two	K P two	20. K R to K Kt 3rd	K to K R 2nd
2. K Kt to B 3rd	Q Kt to B 3rd	21. B to Q B 4th	K B P two †
3. Q P two	P takes P	22. Q to her 2nd	Q Kt P two †
4. K B to Q B 4th	Q P one	23. B to K B sq	Q P one
5. Kt takes P	Q Kt to K 4th	24. Q R to Q sq	Q R to K 2nd
6. K B to Q Kt 3rd	Q B P two	25. K R P one	K R to K sq
7. K Kt to B 3rd	Kt takes Kt (ch)	26. Q B P one	Q B P one
8. Q takes Kt	K Kt to B 3rd	27. K R to K 3rd	R takes R
9. Q B to K Kt 5th	K B to K 2nd	28. P takes R	Q to K 2nd
10. Q Kt to B 3rd	Castles	29. K to B 2nd †	Q to her 3rd
11. Castles on K side	Q B to K 3rd	30. K Kt P one	Q R P two
12. Kt to Q 5th *	Q B takes Kt	31. B to K Kt 2nd	Q Kt P one ‡
13. Q B takes Kt	Q B takes P	32. B takes Q P	R to Q sq
14. B takes P	Q takes B	33. B to K Kt 5th (ch) ||	K takes B
15. Q to K 3rd	Q to K sq	34. Q takes Q	R takes Q
16. K R to K sq	B to Q B 3rd	35. R takes R	B to K 5th
17. Q to K Kt 5th	K R P one	36. R to Q R 6th	P takes Q B P
18. Q to K B 4th	Q to her 2nd	37. P takes P	
19. K R to K 3rd	Q R to K sq		Black resigns.

* Badly calculated. After such a *lapse* Black ought to have won the game.
† Black has now an excellent game. A pawn more, and a better position than his opponent, should have been enough to secure the victory.
‡ His best move. Had he played the R to K sq, Black would have advanced the K B Pawn.
§ This is an egregious fault. He had evidently expected to gain a piece if White took the Q Pawn, but overlooked the subsequent check of the Bishop at Kt 8th.
|| After this, Black's game is hopeless. White gains "the exchange," and the Pawns must fall ultimately under the power of the Rook.

GAME THE NINTH.

WHITE (Stanley).	BLACK (Rousseau).	WHITE (Stanley).	BLACK (Rousseau).
1. K P two	K P two	25. Q to K Kt 4th	K Kt P one
2. K Kt to B 3rd	Q Kt to B 3rd	26. R to K sq	R to B 5th
3. K B to Q B 4th	K B to Q B 4th	27. Q to Kt 3rd	Kt to K 2nd
4. Q P one	Q P one	28. Q P one	Kt to K Kt 3rd
5. K R P one	K Kt to B 3rd	29. Q Kt P one	Q Kt P one
6. Q Kt to B 3rd	Q B to K 3rd	30. Q P one	Q R P two
7. B to Q Kt 3rd	Q to K 2nd	31. Q to her B 3rd	Kt to K 2nd
8. Q Kt to K 2nd	K R P one	32. Q to K 3rd	Kt to K 3rd
9. Q B to K 3rd	B takes B	33. Q Kt P one	K to R 4th
10. P takes B	Q R to Q sq	34. Q Kt P one	P takes P
11. Q Kt to K Kt 3rd	Q P one	35. P takes P (ch)	K Kt P one
12. P takes P	Kt takes P	36. P takes P	R takes P
13. B takes Kt	R takes B	37. Q B P one	Kt to B 5th
14. Castles	R takes B	38. K Kt P one	K R to K Kt sq
15. K P one	R to Q 2nd	39. K to R 2nd	P takes P
16. K Kt to R 2nd	Kt to Q Kt 5th *	40. P takes P	K to Kt 3rd
17. Q R P one	Kt to B 3rd	41. Q P one ¶	P takes P
18. K Kt to his 4th	B takes Kt †	42. P takes P	K R to his sq (ch)
19. Q takes B	Q to K 3rd	43. K to Kt sq	K R to his 6th
20. Kt to K B's 5th ‡	K Kt P one §	44. K to B 2nd	R to his 7th (ch)
21. Kt takes R P (ch)	K to R 2nd	45. K to B 3rd	K to R 4th
22. R takes K B P	Q R takes R	46. Q to her R 7th	K to Kt 4th
(ch) ¶	K takes Kt	47. Q to K 7th (ch)	
23. Q takes Q	Q R to B 3rd		And White wins.
24. Q B P one	Q R to B 3rd		

* This last move appears the result of imperfect calculation. Black's object was to check with his Q at her B 4th, when the Kt was attacked by the Rook's Pawn, by which he expected to win the Q B P, but, unfortunately, he forgot that the interposition of his adversary's R at K B's 2nd prevented the capture. He would have improved his position had he played the Q to K Kt 4th instead of thus losing time.

† Anything but judicious. What possible advantage could Black propose to himself by this exchange?

‡ This follows of course, and should have been foreseen. The game at this stage is utterly irretrievable.

§ Q to K Kt 3rd appears the best move, but even that would lose "The exchange" and a Pawn.

¶ White plays very well, exacting to the uttermost the penalty of his opponent's error.

¶ Had White taken the Kt, Black could have drawn the game.

GAME THE TENTH.

WHITE (Rousseau).	BLACK (Stanley).	WHITE (Rousseau).	BLACK (Stanley).
1. K P two	K P two	26. R to K 6th ¶	K to Q 2nd
2. K Kt to B 3rd	Q Kt to B 3rd	27. R to Kt 6th	K B to Q sq
3. Q P two	P takes P	28. R takes Q Kt P, ch	K to B 3rd ¶
4. K B to Q B 4th	Q P one	29. R takes Kt P	R takes B (ch)
5. Kt takes P *	Q Kt to K 4th	30. K to Q 3rd	R to K 3rd
6. K B to Q 3rd	Q B P 2	31. R to K Kt 6th	R to Q 3rd (ch)
7. K Kt to B 3rd	Q B to K Kt 5th	32. K to his 2nd	Kt to K 5th
8. K B checks	Q Kt to Q 2nd	33. R takes R (ch)	Kt takes R
9. Q Kt to B 3rd	K Kt to B 3rd	34. Kt to Q sq	Kt to K B 4th
10. Q B to K Kt 5th	Q R to B sq	35. Q B P one	K R P one
11. Castles	K R P one	36. K to B 3rd	Kt to R 5th (ch)
12. Q B to K B 4th	Q R P one	37. K to Kt 3rd	B to Q B 2nd (ch)
13. B takes Kt (ch)	Q takes B	38. K to R 3rd	Kt to K Kt 3rd
14. K R to K sq	K B to K 2nd	39. K Kt P one	K to Q 4th
15. K P one	P takes P	40. K B P one	K to Q 5th
16. Q takes Q (ch)	Q B takes Q	41. Kt to K B 2nd	Kt to K 4th
17. K Kt takes P	Q B to K 3rd	42. K to Kt 2nd	Kt to Q 6th
18. K Kt to his 6th	P takes Kt	43. Kt takes Kt	K takes Kt
19. R takes B	Q R to B 3rd	44. K R P two	P takes P
20. Q R to K sq	R takes R	45. K Kt P one	P takes P
21. R takes R	K to Q 2nd	46. P takes P	K to Q B 7th
22. R to Q Kt 6th	K to Q B sq †	47. Q Kt P two	Q B P one
23. K to B sq	R to Q sq	48. Q R P two	K takes P
24. K to his 2nd	P to K Kt 4th	49. Q Kt P one	P takes P
25. B to K 5th ‡	R to K sq §	50. P takes P	K to Q 5th

White surrenders.

* Mr. Rousseau appears but imperfectly acquainted with the resources of this beautiful opening. Instead of casting, as in a previous game, or taking the pawn, as he did in this, he should have played Q B P one square.

† The last few moves are very well played by White, and up to this point we should certainly take his game for choice.

‡ By thus placing the B in front of the K, White prompts his adversary to make a good move. Either the King should not have been moved to his 2nd, or, being there, the Bishop should not have been stationed where he now is.

§ While the Rook remained on Q square, Black was in some peril, for his enemy threatened to play Kt to Q R 4th, then give up Rook for Knight, and finally mate at Q Kt 6th.

¶ Bad as this is, he appears to have had no better move.

¶ If he had checked at Q 6th, instead of capturing the Pawn, Black would equally have gained a piece.

GAME THE ELEVENTH.

WHITE (Stanley).	BLACK (Rousseau).	WHITE (Stanley).	BLACK (Rousseau).
1. K P two	Q B P two *	11. B takes Kt	K B P takes B
2. K B P two	K P one	12. Q Kt P one †	P takes P ‡
3. K Kt to B 3rd	Q Kt to B 3rd	13. P takes P	K B to K 2nd
4. Q B P one	Q P two	14. Q B P one ||	Q B to K 3rd
5. P takes P	P takes P	15. Q Kt to B 3rd	Q R to Q sq
6. Q P two	K Kt to B 3rd	16. P takes P	B takes P
7. K B to Q 3rd	K Kt to K 5th †	17. Kt takes Kt	B takes Kt
8. Castles	K B P two	18. Q R takes P	K B to Q B 4th ¶
9. K Kt to K 5th	Q to K B 3rd	19. Q to K R 5th (ch)	
10. Q B to K 3rd	Q B P one		Black resigns.

* It appears by this opening that we were mis-informed as to the players having mutually agreed to play King's pawn two squares for their first move every game.

† This is premature. His first object should have been the development of his forces.

‡ Through the too forward situation of Black's unsupported pawn White is enabled to break them up at once.

§ Any attempt to sustain the Q B P by the Kt's pawn would have been unavailing, for White would instantly have answered with "Q R P two," and thus have gained a still more marked advantage in position.

¶ White evidently sees where the strength of his game lies.

¶ But for this almost incredible blunder Black might yet have retrieved the game. He should have castled, and then the Bishop to Q B 4th would have done him telling service.

DEATH OF RICHARD LATHAM, ESQ., F.L.S., &c.—This gentleman, who was a life governor of Christ's and St. Bartholomew's Hospitals, a life subscriber to St. Ann's Schools, life subscriber to the Licensed Victuallers' School and Asylum, fellow of the Linnean Society, and for upwards of a quarter of a century acting partner in the eminent brewery of Sir Henry Meux and Co., died on Saturday morning in the 79th year of his age, at his residence, Bayswater Villa, Bayswater, after a brief illness of a few days.

AWFUL INSTANCE OF SUDDEN DEATH.—On Tuesday Mr. Baker held an inquest at the Woolpack, Pear-street, St. Luke's, on the body of Elizabeth Johnson, aged seventy-two years. On Sunday evening, whilst the deceased was making her bed, she suddenly fell on the floor and instantly expired. The deceased had often expressed her conviction that she should die suddenly. A medical gentleman attributed death to a cancer in the stomach of old standing. Verdict, "Died by the visitation of God."

AWFULLY SUDDEN DEATH IN THE STREET.—On Tuesday evening, between seven and eight o'clock, as Dr. Pearce, a gentleman fifty years of age, residing in Marsham-street, Westminster, was returning to his residence from visiting a patient, when in Peter-street, he suddenly staggered and fell on the pavement. Every possible medical assistance was rendered, but all endeavours to restore animation proved ineffectual. The deceased has left a widow and family to deplore

EVERY BODY'S COLUMN.

EVENING MELODIES.—NO. XXIII.

Tell on, thou distant bell!
If thou dost speak of pleasures gone,
Now is it time thy tale to tell;
Toll on! toll on!

For oh! within my heart,
There lurks such deep, such fix'd distress,
That even tears refuse to start,
To ease its bitterness:

And if, while all things sleep,
I sit and listen to thy tone,
Happily the sound may make me weep.
Toll on! toll on!

The glory of my youth
I feel must shortly pass away;
The light, the liveliness, the truth,
Are all too bright to stay.

And I have none on whom
My thoughts rest gladly; none to share
Love's earliest, freshest, sunniest bloom,
Ere taint can enter there!

And yet this heart has lov'd;
Has lov'd? Alas! my mournful lot
Would have its dearest thing remov'd,
Could it e'en now love not!

For I have made those dear
On whom my hopes I never dwell.
I would that I could shut one tear:
Toll yet more sad, thou bell!

The world is bright around,
The woods are glorious in their mirth;
The hills rejoice; the fountains bound
Upon the fresh green earth.

Oh! there's a solemn tongue
In all these scenes, which seems to say,
"Ye will not, cannot twice be young;
Then love while yet ye may!"

If no one loves me now,
Now, when youth's light is in my eye,
Who will press round me when this brow
Is wrinkled by and by?

What have these pale lips said?
That no one loves me? While I s—ko
A clasp dispers'd, and round my—
A sacred radiance broke.

In that light let me kneel:
Oh, Holy Father, it may be
Thou chastenest thus, that I may
How I am loved by Thee!

For doubtless, Lord, Thou art
A friend to those oppress'd, forgot;
Doubtless Thou hear'st, though all depart,
And loved ones love us not.

If grief Thy name endears,
Teach me beneath that grief to bow:
There's mercy in this gush of tears—
My heart is lighten'd now!

R. R. S.

THE POPULATION OF SWITZERLAND.

The population of Switzerland at present amounts to 2,362,200 souls, of whom 936,600 are Papists, 1,433,000 Protestants, and 2,600 Jews.

A GREAT SAVING.

A short time since a provincial newspaper, speaking of a forest which was going to be enclosed, made the following remark:—"This waste will be a great saving to the country."

HYDRAULIC BED.

A few days ago the following notice was appended to a *water-spout* in one of the principal streets in Brighton:—"A bed to let up here."

INTRODUCTION OF THE GROWTH OF THE TEA-PLANT INTO FRANCE.

M. Lecoq, the author of a brochure published in 1845, on the culture and preparation of tea in France, has succeeded, not only in acclimatizing this precious plant, but in giving it the character and qualities of Chinese tea. Some difficulties yet remain to be resolved as concerns Pekoe and Souchong; still success has crowned the efforts of M. Lecoq, so that all who wish to try the experiments may do so in all security. The species of tea to be preferred may, perhaps, be demanded. The reply is simple; every variety of tea in use is gathered from a single shrub, the green tea-plant (*thea viridis*).

A NEW LINE.

A fellow in Kentucky, with a railway imagination, wants to know how long it will be before they open the *equinoctial line*.

MILDNESS OF THE SEASON.

A fine dish of white currants was gathered on Christmas-day in the garden of William Ford, Esq., Yeo, near Yealampton, Devonshire.

LITERATURE IN FRANCE.

There issued from the French press, during the year 1845, 6,521 books of various kinds, 1,405 prints, 492 pieces of music, and 104 maps—in all 8,520 works.

THE OREGON TERRITORY.

The name of Oregon is derived from *oregano*, the Spanish word for wild marjoram, the *oreganum vulgare* of Linneus, which grows abundantly in the western parts of the American continent, and particularly in the disputed territory.

GIGANTIC TREE.

On the 22nd ult., a tree was cut down at Rammerscales, Scotland, for the purpose of being converted into sleepers for the Caledonian Railway, of which the following are the dimensions:—Circumference at root where cut off, 11 feet 2 inches; diameter at widest part, 3 feet 9 inches; height, 90 feet; contents of timber, 106 feet. The rings of growth numbered 87; so its age may be estimated at a century. After cutting off 37 feet of butt, there were still three lengths (27 feet) large enough for sawing into sleepers.

EXTREMES.

We are told that extremes never last long; but it would be well if it could be said that extreme poverty did not last long.

RANK AND TALENT.

Many a man may justly thank his talent for his rank, but no man has ever yet been able to return the compliment, by thanking his rank for his talent. When Leonardo da Vinci died, his Sovereign exclaimed, I can make a thousand Lords, but not one Leonardo. Those who value themselves merely on their ancestry, have been compared to potatoes—all that is good of them is underground.

A MONSTER PROJECT.

Two French engineers, Messrs. Franchut and Du Motay have projected a most startling mode of communication between Dover and Calais. Then propose to accomplish this object by a tunnel, to be composed of a series of iron tubes, of about 4 metres long with a diameter of 2½. The works being commenced simultaneously on the two opposite coasts, when the tubes reach the water, other tubes are to be successively let down from a vessel placed over the boundary of the last tube, the orifice of this tube being closed by a disk in wood. The descending tube is to be suspended from a crane by a cord, which attaches itself, on coming in contact, to a sort of wheel fixed in the tube below, and the two having been before adjusted to each other, the locks or springs with which they are provided serve to bolt them together water-tight, and then the wooden disk of the one is carried forward to close up the end of the other.

A SUBMARINE RAILWAY.

M. Guillemon, an officer of engineers in France, has conceived the project of making a railway which shall unite the Mediterranean with the Channel—say from Toulon to Cherbourg—along which may be transported ships and fleets of war from one point to the other on occasion. The plan, not developed at length, consists in its outline of a submarine sort of tunnel to be made under the railway, which, by an incline of the latter, might at some certain point bring the ship to and upon the level of the line. It remains to be seen how such a project could be worked out, considering the breadth and height of a ship, and also its weight. The latter is estimated at 2,700,000 kilogrammes.

A CHARADE.

A Correspondent sends us the following Charade:—
Ere Persia's realm was overthrow'n,
My first was to the wise alone
By mystic signs and symbols known;
When mighty Caesar held his sway
From Cheviot Hills to India's Bay,
My second shone with brightest ray;
And, when in Babylonian chain'd,
My second of my first complain'd,
My whole the conqueror of both remain'd.

THE CHINESE COURT.

The *China Mail* of the 20th of November, under the head of "The Court," says:—"In consequence of the general pardon lately declared by the Emperor, a Manchoo officer has submitted an humble petition to Taoukwang, praying that four Princesses of the blood, who had been exiled under very distressing circumstances, might be relieved. The Emperor received the petition favourably, and returns for an answer, 'My will is recorded—be it done.'"

A NEWLY-INVENTED MUSKET BALL.

A newly-invented musket ball has been tried at Vincennes, and produced effects similar to those of the cylindrical ball. This new missile consists of the ball having a nail run through its centre, and is put into the musket with the point towards the muzzle. This is said to make it carry further and with greater precision.

AN OBSTINATE ECHO.

There are certain letters which no echo will return or express, particularly an S, of which Lord Bacon gives a pleasant instance in a celebrated echo formed by the walls of a ruined church at Pont Charenton, near Paris, where there was an old man who took it to be the work of spirits, and of good spirits too, for, said he, if you call Saturn, the echo will not deliver back the devil's name, but will say *va t'en*, which in French signifies avoid. By which accident Lord Bacon discovered that echo would not return an S.

A STEAM ENGINE BY POST.

Mr. G. Cartwright, of Preston, received an order, on Friday week, for a miniature steam-engine, on the high-pressure principle, for which he sent to Messrs. Chadburn Brothers, Sheffield; and, strange to say, though the engine had to be built, he received it enclosed in a letter, by post, on Tuesday morning! The engine was complete in every detail, accompanied by a boiler and a fire-grate containing fuel. At the request of several of the astonished beholders, it was kept in motion the whole of Tuesday.

GREEN PEAS IN JANUARY.

The mildness of the weather has forced on vegetation to a state that in other years it had not attained in March. In a garden, near West Cowes, there are three rows of peas, in blossom and in pod—they were planted in October. Broad beans are to be seen in blossom; and potatoes, which were early planted, are an inch above ground.

LIEBIG WHEN A BOY.

Liebig was distinguished at school as a "booby," the only talent then cultivated in German schools being verbal memory. On one occasion, being sneeringly asked by the master what he proposed to become, since he was so bad a scholar, and answering that he would be a chemist, the whose school burst into a laugh of derision. Not long ago, Liebig saw his old schoolmaster, who feelingly lamented his own former blindness. The only boy in the same school, who ever disputed with Liebig the station of "booby," was one who never could learn his lesson by heart, but was continually composing music, and writing it down by stealth in school. This same individual Liebig lately found at Vienna, distinguished as a composer, and conductor of the Imperial Opera House.

MUSIC.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

As yet no official programme of the forthcoming season has been published, but the arrangements have transpired. The positive engagements are Gristi, Castellani, Brambilla, Mario, Lablache, Fornasari, F. Lablache, and Corelli, the artists of last season, and a Signora Sanchioli, a new *prima donna*, and a Signor Corbani: for the ballet, Carlotta Gristi and Lucile Grahn. The dancing of Cerito will depend on "circumstances," but she is engaged. Taglioni and Rubini have such engagements offered to them that they cannot well refuse, but their adhesion is not yet certain. When we have Mr. Lumley's prospectus, we will submit some remarks on the conditions necessary for the carrying on of such a lyrical establishment.

The theatre is to be entirely redecorated, and Mr. Stanfield is engaged in painting a drop-scene. The outlay of the manager in this respect is magnificent. Whilst the eye will be thus pleased in scenic and house embellishments, it is to be hoped that the ear will be also gratified by musical attractions worthy of the splendid patronage bestowed on her Majesty's Theatre.

Verdi is coming over to superintend the production of an opera on "King Lear," written to display Lablache's histrionic talents. This is the right policy, and we hope other composers will be also invited. The old *repertoire* is exhausted.

Costa is no longer the Conductor. Ballo has been appointed in his place. Costa's loss is irreparable. We perceive that a letter has been published by Mr. Lumley on the subject; but, until Signor Costa has submitted his reply, we shall not discuss the vexed question between them.

The direction of the Italian Opera House is one of the highest positions that can be held by an intelligent and enterprising Manager. He may be stated to have the power of influencing the progress of art in this country. The mission to advance it would be a noble one, and he might earn for himself a greater name in musical annals than that of a mere successful speculator.

SACRED CONCERTS.

The programme of the fourth concert, given on Wednesday night at Crosby-hall, which was crowded to excess, was excellent. It opened with Dr. Boyce's fine Anthem, "I have surely built thee." A splendid air and chorus adapted from one of Mozart's Masses; Handel's colossal Chorus from "Samson," "Let their celestial concerts;" a magnificent Chorus of Sebastian Bach, "Jesus hath left the dreary tomb;" and a clever Chorus, "Glory to God," by Miss Mounsey, were the leading choral pieces. Miss Rainforth gave a delightful song by Kücken, "Come, Holy Spirit," and Handel's "Let the bright Seraphim"—being encored in the latter. Miss Cubitt was similarly honoured in Freyer's air, "Free from sorrow." Girschner's Duet, "Sleep, baby, sleep," sung by the Misses Rainforth and Cubitt, was also demanded a second time. Mr. Locke, the tenor, in an air by Schubert, "Great is Jehovah," and Mr. A. Novello, in a recitative and air, by Atsmyr, contributed their share to the evening's gratification—not the least feature of which was Miss Mounsey's organ solo. The fifth concert is on the 18th proximo.

MR. J. W. ROE'S ENTERTAINMENT OF THE MADRIGAL AND GLEE WRITERS OF ENGLAND AND THEIR COMPOSITIONS.

On Monday night, at the Princess' Concert Room—the prettiest *salon* in the metropolis devoted to "sweet sounds"—Mr. Roe, long known as an enthusiastic amateur, commenced a novel entertainment, under the title at the head of this article. He supposes the composers of England, of all epochs, to be in friendly congress, and, then, the stars of their respective ages discourse most "eloquent music."—In this way old Dowland, immortalised by himself as well as by Shakespeare, appear before us, in the first part, in his celebrated "Prayer for Queen Elizabeth;" whilst the ever green and ever lively Tom Cooke, in the second act, sang his splendid glee, "Shades of the Heroes." The quaint Madrigal was also in requisition; and, but for the indisposition of Mr. Francis, catches would have been comprised in the scheme. Mr. Roe had engaged an effective choir in Messrs. Hobbs, E. Chapman, Hatton, the Misses Williams, and the Misses Pyne. Stevens's fairy glee from "Oberon" was rapturously encored; as also Goss's glee, "There is beauty on the Mountain," and Wilbye's madrigal, "Flora gave me fairest flowers." This undertaking deserves every success; it offers to the general public new sources of enjoyment now known only to the few amateurs who are members of private clubs and societies. As the executants become familiar with each other's style, the *ensemble* will be more complete.

M. JULLIEN'S CONCERTS.

Tuesday, January 27, being the anniversary of Mozart's birthday (he was born in Salzburg, in 1756, and died in Vienna, December 5, 1791), M. Julien, with good tact, and, much to his credit, without any extra puffing, gave an entire act to the works of the immortal composer. The "Jupiter" symphony, the "Zauberflöte" overture, and selections from operas—the wind instruments playing the voice parts were rapturously applauded.

CONCERTS.—Mr. Turner gave his Fifteenth Annual Concert, on Tuesday night, at the Music Hall, Store-street, which was well filled. The selection was principally of the ballad school. The vocalists were the Misses Birch, Rainforth, Cubitt, Lucombe, Steele, Felton; Messrs. Turner, Shoubridge, Machin, Ransford, and John Parry; with Miss Dinah Farmer as pianist, and Mr. Richardson as flutist. Mr. J. A. Longhurst was conductor.—A Choral Concert, conducted by Mr. Essex, with his son as organist, was given on Tuesday, at the Packerington School-rooms, Charter-house-square.—Mr. Braham, assisted by his sons, Mr. Henry Laurent, pianist, and Miss Rainforth, Mdle. Schloss, Miss Hobbs, Miss Pearce, &c., had a Concert at the St. James's, on Thursday night.—The Purcell Club Anniversary was held on Friday.—On Thursday the Melodists met, for the first time this season, at Freemasons' Hall.—On Monday Mr. Dando commences his Quartet Concerts.—On Wednesday Madame Duicken has her second *soirée*; and Mr. Hullah's Choral Meeting takes place at Exeter Hall.—On Friday "Samson" will be performed by the Sacred Harmonic Society.

SECOND ITALIAN THEATRE.—The report that there is a project for a second Italian company, at Covent Garden Theatre, is quite true. In the first instance, the speculators negotiated with Mr. Bunn for Drury Lane Theatre, but could not come to terms, and Covent Garden has been taken, conditionally, for three years. The principal singers will be Persiani, Vlardot Garcia, the sister of the Malibran; Guasco and Salvi, tenors; Ronconi and Tamburini, basses. The Brussels Company cannot come over this year, but there is a prospect of a German *troupe*. CONTINENTAL MUSICAL NEWS.—Spontini's "Vestale" has been creating a sensation in Berlin, with Jenny Lind as the heroine. Madame Thillon and Liszt have been making tours in Belgium. The Duke of Coburg, brother of Prince Albert, has written an opera for the Gotha Theatre. It is curious that the three great *dansesuses*—Cerito, Dumilâtre, and Fanny Elssler, have been unsuccessful at Turin, Milan, and Rome. The Pope prohibited "Esmeralda," as immoral. Mdle. Andreanoff, a Russian *danseuse*, is now the star of the *Scala*.

DRURY-LANE THEATRE.—Mr. Wallace, the composer of "Maritana," takes a benefit on Thursday night, on the 50th representation of his opera. He will perform on the piano-forte, and be assisted in a concert by Signor Marras, the Italian tenor, Salinton, the violinist, &c. Macfarren's "Don Quixote" is underlined for Tuesday. Flora Fabbri closes her engagement on Saturday, with a benefit. Her success has been immense. A new ballet by Barrez is in rehearsal, in which Mdle. Maria, of the Académie Royale, Mdle. Neodot, of the Madrid Imperial Theatre, and M. Desplaces, of the Académie Royale, will appear. Benedict's opera is in active rehearsal. It is reported that Mr. Bunn has cleared upwards of £10,000 since Christmas.

THE THEATRES.

FRENCH PLAYS.

The excellence of Madame Albert's acting continues to attract full audiences at the St. James's Theatre. On Monday evening, she appeared in a little piece, "Une Nuit d'Attente," of which the whole burden rested on her shoulders. She portrayed the feelings of a wife whose husband has gone to a ball without her—the jealousies, imagined wrongs, and subsequent happiness at finding her suspicions were entirely without foundation—in a most charming manner. Pieces of this kind, in which one actor remains on the stage throughout, have never met with any great success in the English theatres; albeit, we believe, a translation of this very sketch was performed by Mrs. Stirling a year or two ago, and called "A Night of Suspense." We do not know whether to attribute the indifferent reception these monologues meet with, from us, to an absence of the patient endurance of a French audience, or a lack of that extreme delicacy of acting that can portray the slightest nuance of character on the part of the performer; but the majority of attempts made to adapt these scenes have turned out little better than failures.

On Wednesday, the beautiful drama of "Marie, ou la Perle de Savoie," which appeared two years ago at all the minor theatres in London, and also at the Opera in its musical form as "Linda di Chamouni," was played for Madame Albert's benefit. The original piece, produced, if our memory serves us correctly, at the Gaieté, was called "La Grace de Dieu," taking its title from a ballad of the same name—which was very popular eight or ten years back in Paris—the air running through the piece, and producing many of the situations. The play was highly successful some seasons ago at the St. James's Theatre, when Madame Albert also played the heroine: but although produced at so many houses in London, did not achieve any extraordinary triumph—at least in comparison with its run at Paris. This depended in some measure upon the difficulty of finding an actress endowed with all the attributes requisite for realising the part of Marie. Mrs. Keeley was the only one who could have rendered the character with proper effect, and she was not then available. Of those *artistes* who appeared in it, the best, in our opinion, was Mrs. R. Honner, then at the Surrey.

Some changes were made in the cast of Marie the other evening: we cannot altogether say for the better. M. Cartigny, to be sure, was magnificent as the *Commandant*; but we missed the honest, natural pathos of M. Lienard in *Pierrot*, sustained on Wednesday by M. Narcisse. And Mdle. Anna Grave did not come up to the pleasant, good-tempered Mdle. Avenel, as the always hungry *Chonchon*. We do not mean to say that the characters were not well played, but we had, unluckily, seen them in better hands. As a whole, however, the piece went off admirably, and the tears of the audience, in the fourth and fifth acts, were the best tributes to the excellence of Madame Albert's acting.

Her Majesty and Prince Albert honoured the theatre with their presence. They remained until the end of the drama, and appeared to take a deep interest in its progress. The house was well filled, if not absolutely crowded.

DRURY-LANE.

On Monday evening, the Queen and Prince Albert paid a visit to this theatre, the performances being "Maritana," the Risley Exhibition, and the Pantomime. Not being expected, the management was thrown into some little confusion by

the arrival of the Royal party; but, at last, everything was properly arranged. The Prince appeared to take great interest in the performances of the Risleys, frequently applauding them warmly; and, at the end of the evening, expressed his satisfaction to Mr. Harley, at all he had witnessed. It was observed by several who take delight in never moving their *loggiettes* from the direction of the Royal Box when it is occupied, that the Prince laughed heartily at the "curry" joke in the pantomime.

The general business continues to be very good; not more so, however, than the liberality of the management deserves, with so many attractions in the programme.

Mr. Macready reappeared on Monday night at the Princess' Theatre, and was received with an enthusiasm scarcely less than that which greeted him on his *début* at this house. The play was "King Lear," and he was well supported by Mr. Wallack, Mrs. Ternan, and Mrs. Stirling, as *Edgar*, *Regan*, and *Cordelia*. Any further notice is superfluous, as we could only repeat the commendation we have before awarded to the tragedian and those supporting him.

The drama of "Leoline," to be produced at the Adelphi, on Monday, is written by Mr. H. Holi, of the Haymarket Theatre, the author also of "Grace Huntley," a domestic drama that was very successful, some years ago, at the same house.

The "Crickets on the Hearths," as *Miss Slough* would express herself, appear to be gradually chipping themselves out, at the different theatres. Some have departed altogether, and others have come down to half-price, or three nights a week. We expect that the LYCEUM one will hold its place the longest: to judge from the houses, there appears to be little diminution in its attraction, as every seat is nightly occupied.

The "William Tell" of Sheridan Knowles has been produced, with very great success, at SADBLER'S WELLS, with the same uniform excellence of acting, and attention to general stage-effect, that characterise all the plays produced under this praiseworthy management. It is gratifying to see the exertions of Mrs. Warner and Mr. Phelps in the cause of the legitimate drama so warmly responded to. Night after night their little theatre is filled, literally, to the ceiling, with most respectable, and evidently appreciating audiences—a proof that whatever is really well done will always meet with generous patronage. To be thus well done, every point of detail must be attended to. If stage-managers would sometimes sit amongst the audience, and hear their remarks on points considered of no importance behind the scenes, they would be surprised at the perception of the public, even respecting the most technical appliances of the theatre. At Sadler's Wells everything is excellent; and even the Pantomime evidences very great intelligence, and a departure from all those conventional absurdities which might be built up as a fitting monument for the almost defunct entertainment in question.

The engagement of the Misses Cushman at the HAYMARKET has been renewed, through an arrangement with Mr. Calcraft, the manager of the Dublin Theatre, where the two sisters will next appear. "Romeo and Juliet" is still the great attraction.

A new ballet is in daily rehearsal at DRURY LANE. In the "Diable à Quatre" the parts played by Mademoiselle Dabas and M. Delferier, are now sustained by Madame Gibbelle and Mr. A. Webster.

We hear that Mr. Buckstone's scheme for the new theatre in Leicester-square progresses most satisfactorily. Several shares have been taken by capitalists in New York. The situation is certainly one of the best in London; and, in our opinion, a well conducted theatre, of moderate and commodious size, would stand a fair chance of turning out a satisfactory investment.

EPITOME OF NEWS.—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

We have received Ceylon papers to the 16th December. They bring the intelligence of the arrival of Sir James Emerson Tennent and family at Colombo, in the steamer *Hindustan*. All the journals of the island augur great advantages to the administration of affairs in the colony by the appointment of Sir J. E. Tennent. Subscriptions had been entered into for the establishment of a cathedral church at Colombo.

A letter from Oporto, of the 13th instant, says:—"This place is very gay at present. We have an excellent Italian opera, with Mdle. Rocca, Veluti, Russo, Alba, &c. Hernani, Favourita, Lombardos, have been in scena hitherto, and we expect fresh treats. We have besides a celebrated company of funambulists, and lately a superlative circus of horsemanship, besides public and private balls. These things suit the Portuguese better than speculating in railways."

A letter from Lucca states that the Hereditary Prince of Lucca and his illustrious bride had been received on the 23rd ult., at the small town of Camagora, on the frontier of the Principality, with enthusiasm. The horses were taken out of their carriage, which was drawn into the town by the inhabitants. A similar reception was given them at Lucca, which was illuminated for three successive days.

Professor Dieterich, historical painter and instructor in the School of Art, at Stuttgart, died in that city on the 14th inst., in the 54th year of his age. He was born at Biberach, of poor parentage, and having given early proofs of his talent was placed by the Government under the tuition of Everhard Wüchter, and afterwards sent to Rome to complete his education. His best works in oil are the altar-piece in the Catholic Church of Stuttgart—the resurrection of Christ—and the patriarch Abraham, in the public picture-gallery; he had also produced some good frescoes.

Prince William Frederick of the Netherlands died last week, at the Hague, in the 8th year of his age, having been born on the 22nd August, 1838. The deceased Prince was the only son of Prince Frederick of the Netherlands, who has two daughters, Princess Louisa, born August 5th, 1828, and Princess Mary, born July 5th, 1841.

Letters from St. Petersburg, of the 15th inst., announce the arrival of the Emperor on the 11th. They also state that accounts had been received from the seat of war in the Caucasus, according to which several affairs had taken place between the Russians and Circassians, in which the former were victorious.

A letter from Frankfort, dated Jan. 24, says that Ronge has been forbidden by the Saxon Government to enter any part of the Saxon territories; and the police authorities of the Electorate of Hesse have received orders not to allow any clergyman, belonging to the German Catholic Dissenters, to take up his abode in their respective districts.

We learn from Posen, January 13, that fresh arrests are daily taking place in that Duchy. They are principally Poles. Some of them have been conducted to Grandenz.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Wurtemberg has left Rome, on a visit to the Empress of Russia at Palermo. His Royal Highness intends staying in that city until the departure from thence of the Imperial Family of Russia, with whom he will return to Rome. The accounts from several provinces in the Roman States are unsatisfactory. At Pergola and Imola several conflicts have taken place between the populace and civic authorities, which the military were called on to quell. At Forlì the Inspector of police was shot dead in broad daylight, whilst conversing with an officer. No trace of the murderer has yet been discovered.

A frightful crime was committed a few days since at Lifol-le-Grand (France). A woman, named Corry, cut off the heads of her two children, one aged three months, and the other about three years. She afterwards inflicted some wounds on her own person, but they are not serious.

A letter from Neuenburg of the 12th Jan., says:—"The Vistula, which last year caused so much damage by overflowing its banks, has again this year been productive of injury. All the plain on the right bank of the river from this place to Grandenz has been submerged for the last week. As far as the eye can reach all is under water. The villages of Treni and Montau only show their roofs, and it was with the utmost difficulty that the inhabitants were able to save their cattle.

Mr. Marshall, the British Consul at Calais for the last twenty-four years, died on Friday (last week), after several days' illness. He has left a widow and a large family to regret his loss. He was much respected in his situation, and the Government has lost a useful servant.

The *Akhbar* of Algiers has a letter of the 6th instant from Djidjili, stating that about six in the evening of the preceding day, lightning fell upon the Valde blockhouse, and caused four cases of ammunition to explode. The place and every article in it was destroyed, and the ten men who were on duty at it were all dreadfully burnt or mutilated by the splinters. One gunner died the same night, and five more were expected to have the same fate.

The *Augsburg Gazette* of the 21st has the following under the head of Berlin:—"The French Government recently attempted to induce the Prussian Cabinet to recognise Queen Isabella, and recommend to her a marriage with the Count de Trapani. We learn that our Cabinet, which in this affair makes common cause with Russia and Austria, has given an evasive answer. It appears, however, disposed to discontinue the pecuniary aid which, concurrently with other powers, it has hitherto afforded to Don Carlos."

A few days ago the most celebrated authors of Vienna presented to the Emperor of Austria the plan of a scientific association, whereby a path would be opened for the establishment of an academy. This was accompanied by a petition for his Majesty's sanction to the proposed institution.

A Trieste letter of the 13th, says:—"A Greek steam-packet just come into port, announces that an English packet on her way from Malta has gone ashore on the point of the island of Ithaca, and lies in a dangerous position, as the ground was rocky. Every measure has been taken for endeavouring to save her."

A printer of Wurtzburg has been arrested for having printed an almanack in 1842, in which the name of the Bishop of Wurtzburg is placed before that of the King and Royal Family of Bavaria.

ARTISTS' AMATEUR PERFORMANCE, ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.

A very attractive performance was given at this theatre on Tuesday evening, in aid of the funds of the Artists' General Benevolent Institution. This excellent Society was founded in 1814, "for the relief of all Distressed Artists, whether Subscribers to its Funds or not; merit in distress constituting the claims to its benevolence." Such is the broad and proper field for "all mankind's concern"—charity; and how frequently it is called into exercise may be inferred from the testimony of the Committee for conducting the above performance—"that those most flattered by popular applause have, by adverse circumstances, been brought within the influence and aid of this Institution." This plain experience must appeal strongly to the sympathies of all who "enjoy the luxury of doing good." Over and above this incentive, the performance of Tuesday promised a high



ARTISTS' AMATEUR PERFORMANCE, ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—SCENE FROM "BOMBASTES FURIOSO."

treat, which was fully realised. The several actors were painters and draughtsmen; and, considering how far success on the stage depends upon artistic feeling, the expectation of a good performance by a company of Artists was reasonable enough. Their objects were worthy of association with each other: to borrow from a writer of sublime truth, each purpose, like the natural charity of the sun, illuminated the other without obscuring itself.

The play chosen for Tuesday night was Morton's comedy of "The School of Reform," a piece of other dramatic times than our own, and much cavilled at by critics; but, in this instance, well chosen for the genius of the leading amateur.

The part of *Tyke*, considering its numerous difficulties, was admirably filled by Mr. F. W. Topham, whose genius has occasionally illustrated our pages: the *Connemara Cabin*, in our journal of last week, was this artist's masterly delineation. With a vivid recollection of the *Tyke* of Emery and Bayner, and a traditional shadowing of Mathews's performance of the character, it was played on Tuesday night by Mr. Topham with great success: the part abounds with gushes of intense feeling; but in these, the "artist" never overstepped, nor, on the other hand, did he fall into tameness; these being the *Scylla* and *Charybdis* of amateur actors. It was not, strictly, a conventionally sustained performance, throughout; but, it was full of genius, and love of the art, and was loudly, but judiciously applauded.

Lord Arondale was sensibly played by Mr. Angell; as was the up-hill part of *Frederick* by Mr. Tenniel. *Mr. Ferment* was cleverly filled by Mr. Hamerton; his bye-play was admirable; and this is a rare amateur accomplishment. *General Tarragan* was characteristically stormed through by Mr. F. Holl; and, among the minor characters, that of *Peter*, the frigid servant, was an artist-like bit of acting, by Mr. J. Wilson. Mrs. Tayleure led the female caste, and acted with her accustomed effect as *Mrs. Nicely*.

After the comedy, the bustling farce of "A Day Well Spent" was spiritedly played; the truant shopmen, *Bolt* and *Mizzie*, being Messrs. J. Wilson and F. Holl: the former threw a spice of poor Wrench into his performance.

The evening's entertainments closed with the erudite burlesque of "Bombastes Furioso;" the *General* by George Cruikshank, who played with great gusto, and gave the absurdities of the character most effectively: he was admirably dressed, and more than once reminded us of his own exquisite illustrations of the printed burlesque. He was well supported by Mr. M. Wood, as the *King*, and Mr. Angell's *Fusbos*. The performance kept the audience in a broad laugh from first to last.

Our artist has illustrated the first scene, where *Bombastes* presents "this watch and silken string" to the enthroned sovereign.

The house was entirely filled; half the audience being elegantly dressed ladies. Besides several of our first-rate artists, there was a liberal sprinkling of men of letters.

We are happy to learn that the proceeds are likely to prove a very handsome addition to the fund of the Artists' Institution. All the arrangements of the Committee for conducting the performance are entitled to the highest praise.

We should not omit to add that the several pieces were admirably dressed; and there was an artistic attention to costume, which is too rarely observed by professional actors. The theatre, by the way, has been entirely renovated: it certainly boasts of the most picturesque proscenium in the metropolis.

"THE MOOZOFFER," STEAM INDIAMAN.

This fine steam-ship, built by Fletcher of Limehouse, for the service of the East India Company, was launched from Hogg-yard, on Tuesday last. The Chairman and Directors of the East India Company were present, with their ladies, to witness the ceremony, which took place a

few minutes before two o'clock, at the top of high water; when, every thing being in readiness, the naming of the vessel and dashing a bottle of wine at her bows, was performed by Miss Willock, the daughter of Sir Henry Willock, the Chairman of the East India Company; and the few remaining props which supported the ship having been removed, the *Moozoffer* glided slowly and majestically down the slip into the river, amidst the enthusiastic cheers of the spectators.

The new vessel is a very handsome craft, 256 feet in length, or 25 feet longer than either of the Royal West India Mail Packets. She is of 1440 tons burthen, and will be fitted with engines, each of 500-horse power, by Messrs. Seaward and Capel. Her entire cost will be £100,000.

FASHIONS FOR FEBRUARY.

As the season of fêtes and balls has not yet commenced, we can speak of fashions but by anticipation. Preparation is being made on all sides for the gaieties of the ensuing month, and it is then that the novelties which have been silently germinating at the principal *Magasins de Mode* will burst into full bloom. Already the carriages of those leaders of fashion who have arrived in town, may be seen waiting for their fair occupants at Foulton and Lauré's, and other penetralia of *La Mode*. We will now give our readers some idea of the weighty decisions to which the conferences held within have led.

Bonnets for the promenade in the ensuing month will still retain the Pamela form; but velvet in dark colours will soon cease to be the favourite material. It will be replaced by terry velvet and satin in light shades, of which the favourite are slate colour, Persian lilac, pearl grey, pale pink, and sky-blue. The trimmings are as light and simple as possible; those of the inside of the bonnet must be in a full colour, care being taken, as we need hardly remark, that it should be one which harmonizes well with the hair and the complexion of the fair wearer.

Evening coiffures are in velvet, covered and trimmed with blonde, with galleons of gold and silver, or gold and silver lace. These head-dresses, which are styled "Odette," "Maintenon," "Medicis," "Andalouse," &c., are adapted to the face without difficulty. Wreaths of flowers have always been, and always will be, in vogue; for nothing can be more becoming, more simple, and more pleasing to the eye. They harmonise equally well with the fair luxuriant ringlets of a blonde, or with the classical braids and severer style of coiffure of a brune. It may be added that the perfection to which the manufacture of flowers is now arrived, the lightness and flexibility of the stem, from which branch forth leaves and blossoms, that look as though they had been just plucked from the fields, gives an additional merit to this favourite style of head-dress.

MORNING DRESSES are made in silks, with a satin stripe or pattern. The favourite colours are deep blue, violet, China green, or black, all *glacés*, with different shades. They are trimmed with bands and bows of velvet, and in the midst of each *noeud* is a marcassite button.

PELISSES have revers and trimmings of velvet, of the same colour as the principal shade of the silk; others are fastened all the way down, with bows enlarging towards the bottom, and buttons.



FASHIONS FOR FEBRUARY.

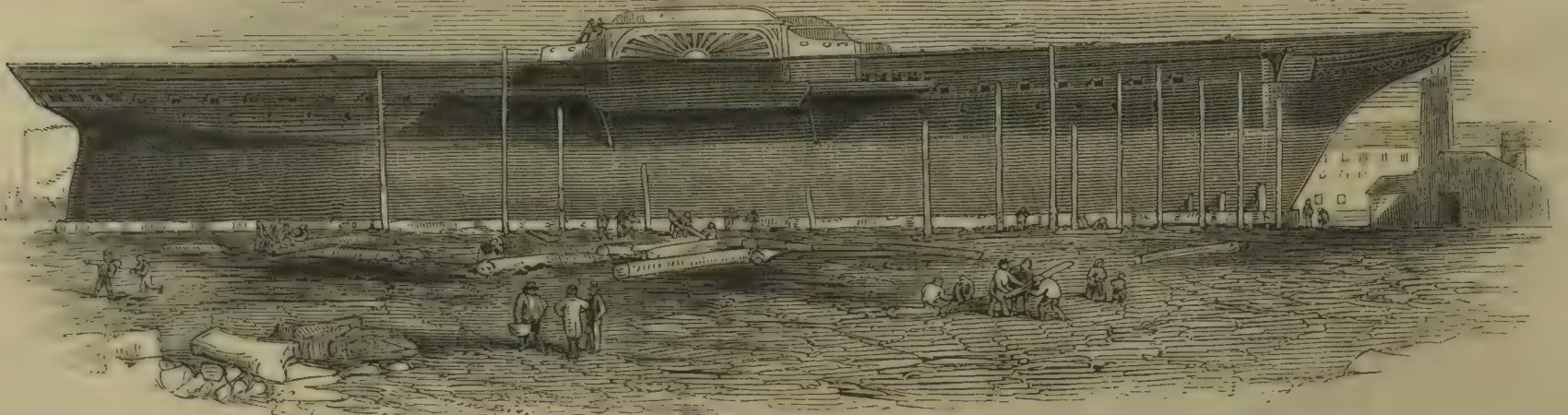
For DINNER DRESSES, rich damask silks, in pink, white, or blue, will be preferred to all others. They are trimmed *à la Louis XIV.*, with flounces of lace or blonde laid on nearly flat, except where looped up at intervals with bows of ribbon. Others are trimmed with bows of ribbon *en tablier*.

EVENING DRESSES, in coloured damask silk, are trimmed with three rows of tulle puffings, in gradations of width, on which are placed, at intervals, bows of narrow satin ribbon. Another form of evening costume very much in vogue is a dress of China-green satin, trimmed with flounces of black lace, with a heading of ribbons, *à la vieille*; or, one of mauve satin, trimmed with three flounces of black lace, looped up, *à la Camargo*, with ribbons shaded off from the full mauve colour to a deep violet.

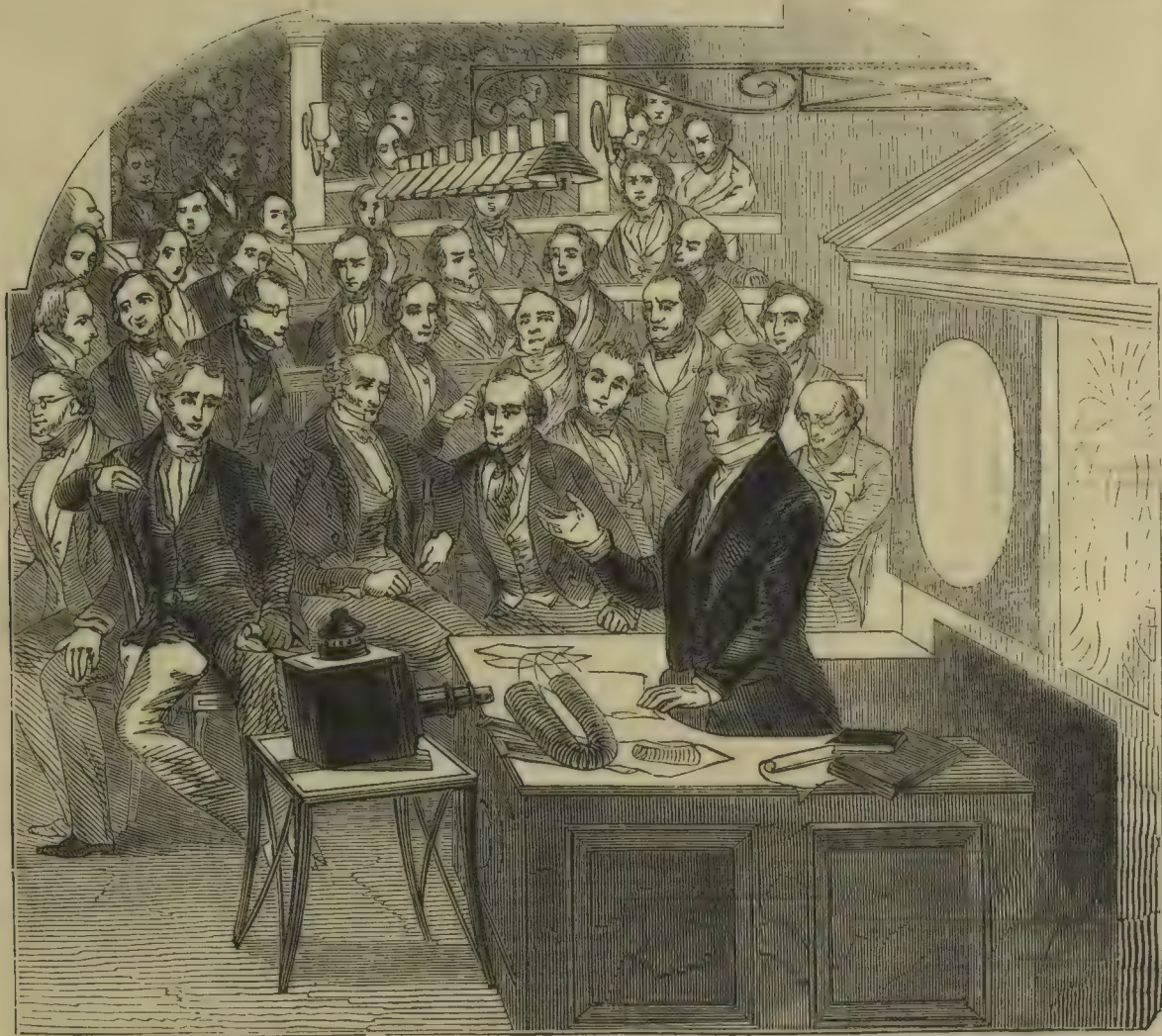


FASHIONS FOR FEBRUARY.

We must not omit also to quote a very favourite style of pelisse, or morning dress. It is made in damask silk, either brown, *broché* black, grass green, *broché* in dark green, or violet, *broché* black; and is trimmed with steel buckles and velvet ribbon.



"THE MOOZOFFER," STEAM INDIAMAN.



PROFESSOR FARADAY'S LECTURE AT THE ROYAL INSTITUTION.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.

PROFESSOR FARADAY'S LECTURE ON MAGNETISM AND LIGHT.

On the evening of Friday, the 23rd inst., Professor Faraday gave, at the Royal Institution, the first experimental demonstration of his recent important discoveries in "Magnetism and Light." The number of visitors was so great, that it was found requisite to open the doors of the Theatre before the usual time: the members' benches were immediately occupied, and many of the members were compelled to take their seats in the central space, close upon the lecture-table.

Professor Faraday prefaced his lecture with a very modest apology for its bareness of experimental interest; adding, notwithstanding the great importance of the subject, the illustrations of it were not of that brilliancy which characterises many other scientific demonstrations. Despite this warning, Professor Faraday, by aid of some beautiful experiments, proceeded to invest the subject with very great interest. We can, of course, give little beyond a brief abstract of this important communication.

Prof. Faraday has long been persuaded that among the various powers of nature, or physical forces, as they are termed, although producing different classes of effects in their operations on matter, there exists a close relation—that, in fact, they are connected by a common origin, have a reciprocal dependence on one another, and are capable, under certain conditions, of being converted the one into the other. Ersted, in 1820, showed that electricity could be made a source of magnetism; and Faraday subsequently proved that magnetism, combined with motion, might be made the source of electricity. That there existed a relation between these powers and light, also has long been a prevailing opinion amongst philosophers; but all efforts to detect this relation have been unsuccessful until within a few months past, when Prof. Faraday, by a long-continued series of experiments, discovered that a ray of light may be electrified and magnetised, and that lines of magnetic force may be rendered luminous. The experiment by which the link of connection between two great natural forces is established is this:—

A ray of light issuing from the argand lamp is first polarised in the horizontal plane by reflection from a glass mirror, and is then made to pass through a prism of "heavy glass," which is in its turn placed before the poles of a very powerful electro-magnet. The polarised ray,

on its emergence from the glass, is viewed through a Nicol's eye-piece, capable of revolving on a horizontal axis, so as to interrupt it or allow it to be transmitted alternately in the different phases of its revolution. If the eye-piece be now turned so as to render the ray invisible to the observer looking through it, it becomes immediately visible when connection is established between a battery and the electro-magnet; and it again becomes invisible when the circuit is interrupted. Thus it is evident that the plane of polarisation has been changed; that the beam of light has, like an electrified wire, arranged itself at right angles to the magnet, thus following the universal law. The effect is produced, though in a less degree, when the polarised ray is subjected to the action of a permanent magnet, and it is also weaker when a single pole only is employed. The magnetic action causes the plane of polarization of the polarized ray to rotate, for the ray becomes again visible by turning the eye-piece to a certain extent. The direction of this rotation, when the magnetic influence issues from the south pole, is right-handed; that is to say, the polarized ray rotates in the same direction as the circulation of the currents of positive electricity, or those hypothetical currents which, according to Ampere's theory, circulate in the substance of a steel magnet. The rotation is, invariably, in one direction; dependent, however, on the direction of the ray, and the magnetic force. In this respect, it differs from those bodies which exhibit the phenomena of circular polarization—for in some of these, as is known, the rotation takes place to the right, in others to the left. When such substances are used, the natural and the superinduced powers tend to produce either the same or opposite rotations.

Prof. Faraday mentioned, incidentally, that the prism of "heavy glass" which he employed on this occasion, was a portion of a quantity manufactured a considerable time since by himself, in conjunction with Sir John Herschel, for the use of the Royal Observatory. The ingenious Professor also attributed the success of his experiments, in great measure, to the accidental circumstance of his using a prism of this peculiar quality of glass.

Prof. Faraday, at the close of his lecture, acknowledged the service rendered by Mr. Darker, who managed the optical apparatus; and to whose skill and attention the success of the experiments was in a great degree to be ascribed.

GERALD GAGE; OR, THE SECRET.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "SUSAN HOPLEY," ETC.

CHAPTER V.



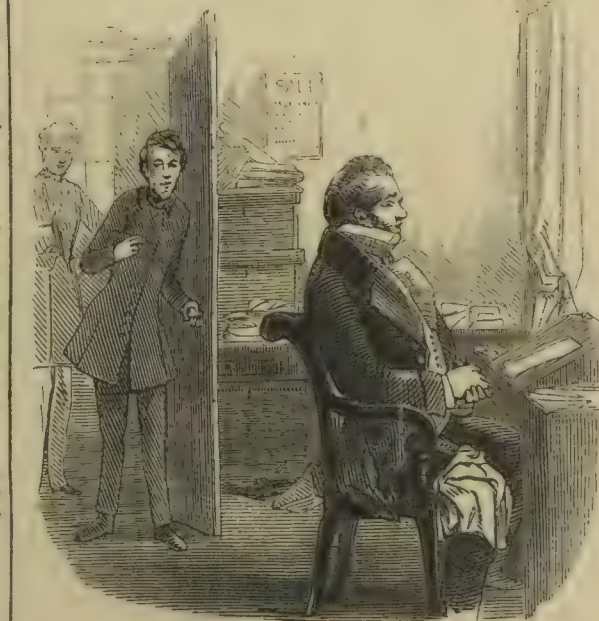
"WHAT an idle dog you're grown, Gage," said young Marmaduke Vane, on entering Gerald's room, one morning, and finding him, as was usual of late, sitting in his dressing-gown and slippers, with his knees crossed, and smoking a cigar. On the table before him lay a hunting-whip, and a shot belt, a pair of foils, and a boxing-glove. There were, also, materials for writing, and a sheet of paper, with the beginning of a letter, which had proceeded as far as, "My dear Emily, I am really ashamed of my long si—" below which words appeared the sketch of a beautiful setter, called Rover, the original of which portrait was lying at the young man's feet. The walls of the room were hung with shooting and hunting-coats, guns and pistols; interspersed with engravings, chiefly of horses celebrated on the turf, or boxers eminent in the ring; and on the mantel-piece lay a variety of cigar-cases, mingled with tubes of various sizes and shapes—short and long, crooked and straight—intended for the purpose of smoking; together with a dice-box, and sundry packs of cards. "How do you expect to get through your examination, I should like to know? Why, I suspect you've forgotten what the inside of a book is made of!"

"Pretty nearly," said Gerald, in a desponding tone. "Is that to-day's paper you have in your hand? Just let me look at it!"

"What do you think Willoughby said last night?" said Vane, giving him the journal; "he said, 'that though you were always borrowing everybody's paper, you never read anything but the Births, Deaths, and Marriages.'"

"He does me too much honour," said Gerald, "I never read even so much!"

"What do you read, then?" said Vane, looking at him with unaffected curiosity.



"The Deaths!" replied Gerald.

"Oh, I have it," exclaimed Vane; "I have it! You're expecting a legacy! I hope it's a plumper!"

"A few hundred thousand pounds," answered Gerald.

"The deuce!" cried Vane. "You don't say so! What a lucky dog you are!"

"I should be, if I'd got it," answered Gerald; "but 'there's many a slip,' you know."

"What ar'n't you sure of it?" asked Vane.

"Oh, yes, quite sure," replied Gerald; who, seeing how he was rising in importance, had not resolution to say he was not; "sure enough, if I live; but one may die, you know."

"Oh, hang dying!" said Vane. "Nobody dies that's got a hundred thousand pounds!"

"That's exactly what I complain of," said Gerald.

"Oh, but I mean when one's young. He's an old fellow, I suppose."

"Oh, yes," said Gerald, "and has been many years in India. That ought to shake a man's constitution."

"Oh, he'll die," said Vane, "never fear; he'll pop off some morning when you're not thinking of it."

"He'll find it difficult to do that, I fancy," replied Gerald, with a half smile.

"Then, I suppose, the truth is, you don't mean to take orders," continued Vane.

"Why, I don't much think I shall," answered Gerald! "I always had an inclination for the army; and if I could get a commission, I believe I had better indulge my fancy than tie myself to a profession I don't like."

"Get somebody to recommend you at the Horse Guards, and purchase a commission," said Vane.

"I have no money," replied Gerald; "I may be the master of a million in six months' time; but at present I haven't a rap."

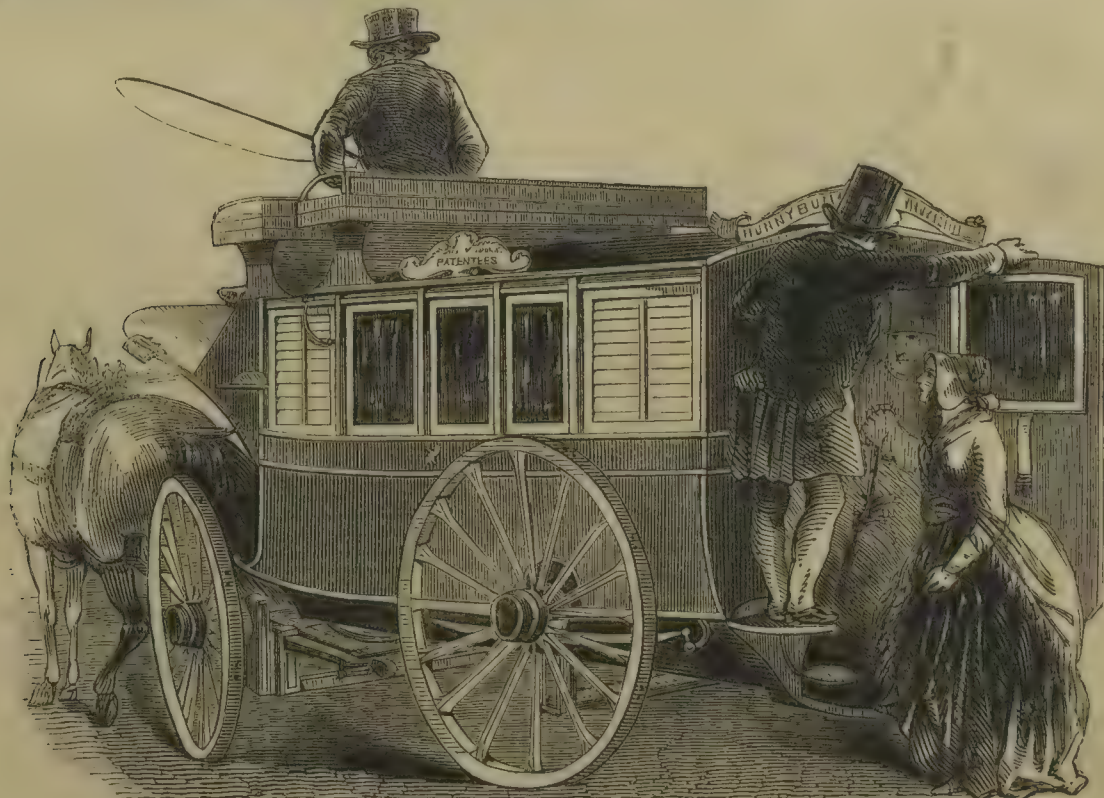
"Won't the old fellow come down?" asked Vane.

"I daren't ask him," answered Gerald. "He's eccentric, and such a request might ruin me."

"Whew!" said Vane, "That's the way with them all. They're the devil to deal with, those old fellows. But why don't you try the Jews?"

"I've no means of convincing them of the reality of my expectations," answered Gerald. "They're afraid of being done; and my hands are so tied, that I daren't take any step to satisfy them."

"Is there nobody you can get to answer for you?" said Vane. "No—"



NEW PATENT SAFETY OMNIBUS.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

body," replied Gerald; "the old fellow's been so close—stop though," added he, "what if I could get the lawyer that made the will?"

"The very man!" cried Vane! Huzzah! Where does he live? What's his name?"

"I don't know where he lives!" answered Gerald, eluding the last question, "but I can easily find out. You think he'll do?"

"Think! Certain of it," replied Vane, "Is it in London he lives?"

"Yes, that much I know," replied Gerald.

"Then come along with me!" said Vane; "I'm off to night, and I'll drive you up in my tilbury. Besides, I know an honest fellow—honest for a Jew, I mean—that'll do your business for you capitally."

The remaining preliminaries were soon settled; and, at the appointed hour, the two young men started for London. As the name was not a common one, Gerald had little difficulty in discovering that Mr. Pilrig was to be found in Lincoln's Inn, and, accordingly, thither he bent his steps. The lawyer was busy at his desk, happily oblivious of his ill-starred journey to Bath, and his own imprudence, when he was "frighted from his propriety" by the announcement that Mr. Gerald Gage was in the next room, and begged to see him immediately.

"Gerald Gage!" said he to the clerk who had entered with the intelligence; "Did you say I was at home?"

"Yes, Sir," replied the clerk. "The gentleman says he wishes to see you on particular business."

"Humph!" said Mr. Pilrig, with a sigh. "Show him in Smith! What the deuce can he want with me?" thought he. To tell him more about the will I suppose. He'll think he has me under his thumb, and that he can screw anything out of me he pleases. And how the plague can I help myself, if he chooses to use the power he's got?" And as these agreeable reflections passed rapidly through the lawyer's mind, he rose to receive the visitor, to whom he offered a chair, with an air of as much complaisance and welcome as he could assume on so short a notice.

"I dare say, Mr. Pilrig," said Gerald, "that I need not remind you of our meeting in the Bath coach last December; nor of the conversation that passed on that occasion."

"I remember the circumstance you allude to perfectly, Sir," said Mr. Pilrig, "and allow me to add that it is not without great pain that I remember it. It was the first time that I was ever guilty of such an indiscretion, and I hope you will believe me, when I assure you that it will be the last."

"Did you succeed in finding our fellow traveller?" enquired Gerald.

"No, Sir," replied Pilrig, "I made every enquiry, but without success. However, I trust he has made no ill use of my imprudent disclosure. I have no reason to think that he has."

"Then you have heard nothing from Mr. Livingstone on the subject?"

"Nothing, Sir."

"Have you seen him lately?"

"Not very lately," replied the lawyer, "I only go, of course, when he sends for me."

"What sort of a man is he?" enquired Gerald.

"A good man enough, I believe," replied Mr. Pilrig, "but eccentric, obstinate, suspicious, and disliking every body that he thinks has a design upon his property, or entertains hopes of succeeding to it. Not from avarice, but rather from an ill opinion and contempt for human nature."

"But I meant," said Gerald, almost blushing, "what sort of a man is he in person, age, health?"

"Oh," replied Pilrig, "I should think he's upwards of seventy; and as for his health, you know, he was a long while in India, and I needn't observe how that tells against a man when he comes to be in years; for," thought the cunning lawyer, "the nearer I represent the prize the more cautious he'll probably be, for fear of losing it."

"Well, then," said Gerald, "altogether, I suppose you consider me pretty secure of stepping into this property before many years are over my head?"

"I do, Sir," said Mr. Pilrig; "I've no doubt of it, provided you keep your own counsel, and that he never suspects you know anything of the business. Perhaps before many months."

"He shall never have any reason to suspect it from me, you may rely on it," said Gerald. "But you see, Mr. Pilrig, in the meantime, whilst the corn grows, the steed starves. I want money, and you must help me to get a little."

"I, Sir!" exclaimed Mr. Pilrig, with a look of alarm. "Why, if I were but to hint such a thing to Mr. Livingstone, the business would be all up. He'd throw his will into the fire, and, most likely, kick me out of the house, into the bargain."

"I'm well aware of that," replied Gerald, "and I don't want you to hint it to Mr. Livingstone. What I want you to do is to stand godfather to me. You must promise and vow three things in my name: first, that I am the heir to a great estate; secondly, that the present incumbent is stricken in years, and has gout and asthma, with a dropsical diathesis; and thirdly, that I am a right honest fellow, who will pay my debts handsomely as soon as I come into my property."

"You're jesting, I'm sure, Sir," said Mr. Pilrig. "You wouldn't ask me to do such a thing."

"I was never more serious in my life," replied Gerald; "and I think I've every right to ask you to do such a thing. You say, yourself, that you have no doubt I shall inherit the property in a few years at furthest; and where's the harm of helping me to a little cash in the meantime, when a few words can do it?"

"I'm sure, Sir, I had any money to spare that could be of any use to you," said Mr. Pilrig, "I should be most happy; but, setting every other consideration aside, to go and put another person in possession of such a secret—surely, you must see it's the height of imprudence."

"Not at all," replied Gerald. "As soon as that other person has lent me money it will be as much his interest as it is ours to keep the secret. Besides, you needn't say what property it is that I expect. You're only to satisfy the person in question that my prospects are what I represent them."

"But you'll get no money under such circumstances, Sir," objected Mr. Pilrig, "except upon enormous interest."

"That may be," replied Gerald. "I dare say the interest will be enormous; but it isn't much I want—only a few hundred pounds to purchase a commission, and fit me out. A thousand would do it abundantly."

"A thousand pounds, Sir," said Pilrig; "it's easy to talk of a thousand pounds; but a thousand pounds isn't so easily got."

"But, I tell you I can get it," replied Gerald, "if you'll only do what I require."

"I couldn't—indeed I couldn't, Sir," said Pilrig.

"Nonsense! Mr. Pilrig," exclaimed Gerald, contemptuously; "what's the use of affecting such scruples after what has passed. Is there any thing worse in helping me to a little cash for an honourable purpose, which you know I shall pay, than in betraying your client's private affairs to a stranger in a stage-coach. I should like to know, if the two peccadilloes were placed in a balance, which would weigh the heaviest?"

"You're hard upon me, Sir," said Pilrig; "but you must remember that my unfortunate disclosure was unpremeditated—a mere lapsus lingue, whilst this would be a deliberate act."

"That makes no difference in the result," observed Gerald. "Your lapsus lingue, as you are pleased to call it, might have been, and may still be, as injurious to me as if you had premeditated the thing for a twelvemonth. You've risked doing me a great mischief, and you are bound in justice to make me some compensation. Besides, I'm desperate; money I must have; and, in a word, if you won't assist me, I'll go to Mr. Livingstone myself, and explain my situation. It's true, I dare say he'll alter his will if I do; but he can hardly refuse a thousand pounds to a man for whom he intended a million, and the son of his old friend too; and, situated as I am, the thousand is almost as much an object of desire now, as the million at an indefinite period."

"Will you give me till to-morrow morning to think of it?" said Pilrig, seeing the determination of the other to carry his point.

"Very well!" said Gerald; "I will if you desire it, though the delay is useless, seeing the thing must be done. I will be with you, then, at ten, to-morrow; and I'll bring the man that's to lend the money with me."

"No, Sir," said Pilrig, "don't do that. If you must have the money, I think I can get somebody to advance it at a cheaper rate than you can get it yourself. I'll consider of it between this and then."

"Now you talk reason, Mr. Pilrig," said Gerald. "Good bye, then, till to-morrow; and the unwelcome visitor departed.

"Yes," said the unlucky lawyer to himself, after maturely weighing the pros and cons—"yes, although if he shouldn't live to inherit the

property, I shall never see my thousand pounds again, I believe it will be more prudent to lend it him myself, at a legal interest, and take his bond, than risk my professional reputation by letting the secret go any further. Besides, I shall be laying him under an obligation; and, if he gets the money, I may find my account in it hereafter." So, when Gerald called on the following morning, after expatiating largely on the difficulty he should have in raising the sum on the one hand, and the dislike he had to see gentlemen cheated, as they invariably were, by the money-lending craft, on the other—interspersing his discourse with hints of the interest he could not help feeling for a young gentleman so peculiarly situated—Mr. Pilrig consented to advance the required amount; and Gerald returned to his hotel with a thousand pounds in his pocket, to begin the world with.

(To be continued.)

HUNNYBUN AND VENDEN'S NEW PATENT SAFETY OMNIBUS.

Every improvement in our street carriages is worthy of notice, in the proportion that it contributes to the safety and accommodation of the public. The above omnibus, just patented by Messrs. Hunnybun and Venden, is a good specimen of this advance: it is a tastefully and conveniently built carriage, remarkable for its low construction, thus affording easy access; so that passengers may step at once from the roadway to the floor of the carriage, without the aid of a step.

The draught is considerably reduced; the peculiar, but simple construction permitting the fore-wheels to be six inches higher than usual; and the eccentric lock enabling it to turn completely round in its length. The Omnibus runs particularly light, and free from noise. It is handsomely trimmed; and, both internally and exteriorly, is a great improvement upon the usual class of omnibuses.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

THE MILITIA.—A public meeting of the members and friends of the London Peace Society took place on Tuesday evening, at Finsbury Chapel, Moorfields, and passed resolutions against the enrolment of the militia. The meeting was very numerously attended. All the propositions submitted were agreed to with entire cordiality and unanimity.

METROPOLITAN IMPROVEMENTS.—The quaint red barracks at Kensington have been recently removed, together with the Grapes public-house, to complete the new and magnificent road now forming from Bayswater to the High-street, Kensington. The houses building upon this site, and which overlook Kensington Gardens, are in the first style of architecture. Two mansions are already finished; one in the Byzantine character, which, although novel to this country, appears to be more particularly suited to our climate and domestic comforts than most others. There are likewise four magnificent stone buildings of Italian character, one of which stands upon a space of an acre and a half of ground. A lodge in the same correct style as that at the north end is to be erected at the Bayswater entrance; and there seems to be a general feeling that this road, from its great breadth, imposing aspect, and the correct taste displayed throughout, bids fair to become a most aristocratic neighbourhood. It has, likewise, a very beautiful appearance at night, from the large size of the gas lamps, and their close approximation to each other.

HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION.—At a late meeting of the Committee of Management of the above Hospital, it was officially announced that Sir Edward Paget had most kindly acceded to the wishes of the Committee, conveyed to him through his Grace the Duke of Richmond, to allow a Bazaar to be held in the Royal Gardens, Chelsea, in June next, for the benefit of the building-fund of the new hospital now in the course of erection at Brompton, under the superintendence of F. J. Francis, Esq., the architect; it was moreover stated that her Majesty the Queen had most graciously intimated (through Sir Henry Wheatley) her intention of patronising the undertaking.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS RECENTLY DECEASED.

THE REV. ERNLE KYRLE-MONEY.

The Rev. Ernle Kyrle-Money, M.A., Vicar of Much Marcle, and Prelector of Hereford Cathedral, died at Marsham House, near Southampton, on the 17th inst., aged 65. The reverend gentleman, who was brother of the late Major-General Sir James Kyrle-Money, Bart., of Hom House, and fourth son of William Money, Esq., of Much Marcle, by Mary his wife, daughter of William Webster, Esq., of Stockton on Tees, lineally derived through the Washbournes and Ernles from the ancient Herefordshire family of Kyrle, of which was John Kyrle, "the Man of Ross." We may in passing remark that the character of that amiable man was faithfully delineated by Pope, and many a tradition of the country still bears ample testimony to the truth of the poet's beautiful encomium. Col. James Money, the grandfather of the reverend gentleman whose death we record, erected in 1776 a handsome monument to the Man of Ross; and thus the reproach—

And what! no monument, inscription, stone!

is deservedly done away.

Mr. Ernle Kyrle-Money, married Jan. 16th, 1806, Mary Thomasina, daughter of Dominick French, Esq., and has left several children.

DR. ALEXANDER JOHN HANNAY.

This distinguished ornament of the medical profession died a few days since at Glasgow. The melancholy event has caused the deepest regret, and the void his departure has left in the learned circle in which he moved, will be long and painfully felt. Dr. Hannay, a native of Wigtownshire, received his education chiefly at Edinburgh, but perfected his studies in Paris, at a period when the signal improvements of Lænnec and the other eminent men of his time had effected so many important changes in the science of medicine. On his return to Scotland, he established himself at Glasgow, and there, by means of his lectures and practice, diffused the enlightened views and the extended knowledge he had acquired—with what success can be estimated by the fact that the late celebrated physician, Dr. Hope, of London, dedicated to Dr. Hannay the latest edition of his great work on "The Diseases of the Heart."

THE MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE (Friday).—Our market still continues in a very dull state for all articles of grain. Since Monday the arrivals of English wheat have been very limited, yet the demand for it has been excessively heavy, at almost nominal figures. Free foreign wheat was held at full currencies, yet it was only those in actual want who were disposed to do any business, most of the buyers being disposed to wait the result of Monday's supply. There was a fair supply of both Norfolk and Suffolk wheat on show. For all kinds the sale was dull, as a reduction in prices of 1s per quarter. The malt trade was dull, and the rates had a downward tendency. Oats, beans, peas, and four were heavy, at barely late rates.

ARRIVALS.—English: wheat, 2840; barley, 4330; oats, 2940. Irish: wheat, —; barley, —; oats, 3970. Foreign: wheat, 4600; barley, 2300; oats, 5040. Flour, 2150 sacks; malt, 4080 quarters.

English.—Wheat, Essex and Kent, red, 48s to 58s; ditto, white, 55s to 66s; Norfolk and Suffolk, red, 50s to 56s; ditto, white, 55s to 61s; rye, 31s to 32s; grinding barley, 24s to 26s; distilling, 26s to 27s; malted ditto, 32s to 33s; Lincoln and Norfolk malt, 54s to 56s; brown ditto, 49s to 52s; Kingston and Ware, 58s to 60s; Chevallier, 60s to 62s; Yorkshire and Lincolnshire feed oats, 23s to 25s; potato ditto, 24s to 30s; Youghal and Cork, black, 23s to 24s; ditto, white, 25s to 27s; tick beans, new, 31s to 33s; ditto, old, 30s to 32s; grey peas, 23s to 31s; 50s, Suffolk, 30s to 41s; Stockton and Yorkshire, 37s to 39s, per 280 lbs. Foreign.—Free wheat, — to —; Danish, red, 52s to 60s; white, 56s to 68s. In Bond.—Barley, 20s to 28s; flour, American, 30s to 32s; Baltic, — to —, per barrel.

The Seed Market.—Cakes are very dull, at the late decline. All kinds of seeds are a slow inquiry, at the figures.

Linseed, English, sowing, 48s to 52s; Baltic, crushing, 46s to 50s; Mediterranean and Odessa, 44s to 47s. Hempseed, 38s to 40s per quarter. Coriander, 12s to 18s per cwt. Brown Mustard-seed, 10s to 15s; white ditto, 12s to 18s. —Tares, 0s 0d to 0s 0d per bushel. English Rapeseed, £27 to £29, per last of 10 quarters. Linseed cakes, English, £11 10s to £12 0s; ditto, foreign, £8 0s to £8 15s per 1000; Rapeseed cakes, £5 0s to £5 10s per ton. Canary, 44s to 48s, per quarter. English Oat-seed, red, 45s to 50s; extra, 52s to 55s; white, 60s to 65s, extra, up to 68s. Foreign, red, 40s to 48s; extra, 50s; white, 60s to 62s; extra, 75s, per cwt.

Bread.—The prices of wheaten bread, in the metropolis, are from 8d to 9d; of household ditto, 6d to 7d per 4lb loaf.

Imperial Weekly Average.—Wheat, 55s 7d; barley, 31s 8d; oats, 21s 10d; rye, 37s 8d; beans, 36s 11d; peas, 35s 8d.

The Six Weeks' Average.—Wheat, 56s 1d; barley, 32s 1d; oats, 22s 5d; rye, 34s 6d; beans, 37s 6d; peas, 36s 1d.

Duties on Foreign Corn.—Wheat, 16s 0d; barley, 6s 0d; oats, 6s 0d; rye, 8s 6d; beans, 5s 6d; peas, 3s 6d.

Ten.—In this article a full average business is doing, and prices are well supported in every instance.

Coffee.—The best colony parcels of West India are in steady request, at fully previous quotations. In the brown qualities very little is doing. Mauritius firm and 6d per cwt. dealer. Bengal and foreign sugars command very full prices. Refined goods steady, at 62s to 63s for brown, and 64s for standard lump.

Spices.—Ordinary Ceylon is in fair request, at 49s to 49s 6d. Other kinds of coffee, though they cannot be considered cheaper, are a slow sale.

Rice.—Bengal has fallen 3d to 6d per cwt. Cleaned rice very dull.

Indigo.—The quarterly sales have been brought to a conclusion. Of 7811 chests put up 4500 were sold, 2258 withdrawn, and 1053 bought in. Compared with the preceding sales the prices show a decline of from 2d to 5d.

Oils.—The same dullness continues in this market as for some time past, but in prices we have no alteration to notice.

Coal (Friday).—Wylm, 16s 6d; Rowlie and Co., 17s 6d; East Heston, 17s 3d; Haswell, 19s 3d; Carradoc, 18s 6d; Adelaide Reef, 18s 6d; Tinsley, 18s 3d to 18s 6d per ton.

The Six Weeks' Average.—Although the supply of hays on offer is by no means large, only a limited business has been transacted here since our last report; nevertheless, prices are tolerably well supported. Sussex pockets, 26 10s to 27 2s; Weald of Kent ditto, 26 10s to 27 10s; Mid Kent ditto, 27 7s to 28 5s; East Kent ditto, 28 2s to 29 10s; Mid Kent bags, 27 5s to 28 5s.

Provisions.—The demand for Irish butter is very steady, and prices are well supported. The best brands of Curlew are in demand at 92s to 98s; and first Lincolnc, 84s to 88s per cwt. English butter steady, at 46s to 50s for the best Dorset; and 11s to 13s per dozen for fresh. Foreign butter firm, at 76s to 108s per cwt. The bacon trade is firm, at 49s to 53s for prime small Waterford; and heavy, 47s to 49s per cwt. Hams steady, at full prices. Lard, 1s per cwt. dealer. Waterford Bladder, 60s to 65s; Limerick, 60s to 63s; and Belfast, 56s to 60s per cwt. English cheese steady, at full prices.

Tallow.—T.Y.C. on the spot, is selling at 42s 6d to 42s 9d; and for forward delivery, 42s 9d per cwt. Town tallow, 43s per cwt.

Wool.—Privately, very few sales have taken place, yet prices are well maintained.

Potatoes.—The supplies being still on the increase, the demand is heavy, and prices are not supported.

Smithfield (Friday).—Notwithstanding the supply of beasts was again limited, we have to report a sluggish demand for that description of stock, at about Monday's prices. The number of foreign stock was small, viz., 48 beasts and 12 sheep. Very few sheep were on offer, owing to which, the mutton trade was active, and the quotations had an upward tendency. Calves were in short supply and sluggish inquiry, at late rates. In pigs no variation was noticed with a steady demand. Milch cows sold heavily, at from 21s to 21s 10s each.

Per 8lbs. by the carcass:—Coarse and inferior beasts, 2s 6d to 2s 8d; second quality ditto, 2s 10d to 3s 4d; prime large oxen, 3s 6d to 3s 8d; prime Scots, &c., 3s 10d to 4s 2d; coarse and inferior sheep, 3s 10d to 4s 4d; second quality ditto, 4s 6d to 4s 10d; prime coarse-wooled ditto, 5s 0d to 5s 2d; prime South Down ditto, 5s 4d to 5s 6d; large coarse calves, 4s 8d to 5s 4d; prime small ditto, 4s 6d to 5s 8d; large hogs, 3s 10d to 4s 6d; neat small porkers, 4s 8d to 5s 2d. Suckling calves, 18s to 21s; and quarter old store pigs, 16s to 20s each. Beasts, 48s; cows, 17s; sheep, 18d; calves, 12s; pigs, 32d.

Vegetable and Leadenhall (Friday).—We had a steady demand here to-day on the following terms:—

Per 8lbs. by the carcass:—Inferior beef, 2s 6d to 2s 8d; middling ditto, 2s 10d to 3s 0d; prime inferior, 3s 2d to 3s 4d; prime small ditto, 3s 4d to 3s 6d; large pork, 3s 8d to 4s 6d; inferior mutton, 3s 6d to 3s 10d; middling ditto, 4s 0d to 4s 4d; prime ditto, 4s 6d to 5s 8d; veal, 4s 8d to 5s 8d; small pork, 4s 8d to 5s 4d.

ROBT. HERBERT.

MONETARY TRANSACTIONS OF THE WEEK.

(From our City Correspondent.)

The continued depression, and, in fact, daily increasing difficulty of procuring commercial accommodation, from the drain consequent upon paying the railway deposits into the Bank of England, has already caused several failures, and more are confidently anticipated. On Wednesday the Directors of the Bank of England again modified their practice of granting loans, substituting only 14 days instead of 21, which was the limit determined on last week. Five per cent. continues to be the minimum for accommodation, and only first class paper at short dates, will be accepted at that price. To the two banking companies alluded to in the ILLUSTRATED NEWS of last week, the Sheffield and Retford Bank and a large discount firm in London, must now be added. The final period, however, for making the deposits is now fast approaching, and sanguine hopes are entertained that after that date the weight from the Money Market will be removed. Consols at the beginning of the week displayed some steadiness, and, in fact, continue at a much higher price than the state of affairs generally could lead to the anticipation of. The principal cause, however, is a probable scarcity of Stock, in the event of any large investments on account of railway deposits, joined to the daily purchases of the Government Broker, which, of course, tends to reduce the floating amount of money stock. Consols, on Monday, quoted 94½ to 95, for Money, and 94½ to 95 for Account. Prices have since fluctuated for ¼ to ½ per cent., and much unsteadiness is the prevailing feature of the market. The American news, although considered unfavourable, did not materially affect quotations, which at the close stood at 94½ to 94½, for Money, and 94½ to 95 for Time. The Exchange Market has improved upon some large purchases, and closes at 26 to 30. These wide quotations are, however, symptoms of unsteadiness not to be disregarded. Bank Stock is 206; Reduced, 95½; New Three-and-a-Quarter per Cents, 97½; India Bonds, 32.

There has been no feature worthy of record in the Foreign House, except a tendency to decline in Spanish Stock. The opening price on Monday was 28½ to 29½ for the Five per Cents., and, after some trifling fluctuations, close at 27½. The Three per Cents. have receded from 38½ to 38. Mexican, on the contrary, improved from 30 to 30½. A large sale of Dutch on Wednesday caused a heaviness in prices, and the closing quotation is 59½ for the Two-and-a-Half per Cents.; Four per Cents., 94½. Peruvian is 39½; Brazilian, 81½; and Buenos Ayres, 40½.

Sir Robert Peel's appointment of a Committee to report upon the best principle for railway legislation during the ensuing session, has had the effect of depressing all descriptions of Scrip. At the same time it imposes a serious responsibility on Directors with regard to making the deposits, or awaiting the result of the Committee's report. If, on the one hand, the deposit is made, and the line be not recommended, time must elapse before the money is repaid; and then comes the question, whether to return it to the shareholders, less the expenses, or retain it until next year. On the contrary, if the deposit be not made, postponement is inevitable, and the same question arises as to the disposal of the funds, with this advantage, that an immediate distribution could be made, if so determined. Registered shares are not entirely free from these depressing influences, as extensions are projected from nearly all the lines in operation. Fortunately, the transactions in the Share Market have been limited during this account, and it consequently will pass off tolerably quietly. But great depressions exist, and sales on limit of even the best lines are being quietly made. The closing prices subjoined will show the little business doing and the general flatness of the market:—Ambergate, Nottingham, Boston, and Eastern Junction, 2½; Birmingham and Oxford Junction, 2½; Bristol and Exeter, 84; Buckinghamshire, 4½ pm.; Caledonian, 14½; Ditto New, 4; Ditto Extension, 2½; Cambridge and Oxford, 4½; Chester and Holyhead, 2½; Direct Manchester (Remington's), 1½; Direct Northern, 2; Dublin and Galway, 3½; Eastern Counties, 2½; Ditto New, 7½ pm.; Ditto Perpet. 5 per Cent., 4½ pm.; Ditto, ditto, 5 pm.; East Lincolnshire, 2½; Exeter, Yeovil, and Dorchester, 2½; Goole, Doncaster, and Sheffield, &c., 1½ pm.; Grand Union (Nottingham and Lynn), 1½; Great Grimsby, Louth, Horncastle, &c., ½ dis.; Great North of England, 216; Great Western Quarter Shares, 20; Ditto, Fifths, 36½; Hull and Selby, —; Lancaster and Carlisle, 52; Leicester and Bedford, ½ pm.; Leicester, Tamworth, &c., ½ dis.; Liverpool and Leeds, Direct, 1½; Liverpool, Manchester, and Newcastle Junction, 3½; London and Birmingham, 23½; Ditto Thirds, 52; Ditto Quarter Shares, 27; Ditto Fifths 24; London and Blackwall, 8½; London and Brighton, 67½; London and Croydon, 22½; London and South Western, 78½; Ditto New Consol. Eighths, 43; Ditto New, 18; London and York, 4½; London, Warwick, and Kidderminster, 1½; Manchester and Leeds, 186; Manchester and Birmingham, 78; Ditto, New Quarter Shares, 9½; Do. Cont. and Welsh Junction, 5; Manchester, Buxton, and Matlock, 1½ pm.; Manchester and Southampton, 2½; Midland, 153; Ditto New, 28½; Newcastle and Darlington Junction, 56½; Ditto New, Brandling, 51½; Newcastle and Berwick, 21½; Newark, Sheffield, and Boston, 2½; North British, 24; Ditto, Half Shares, 7; Ditto, Carlisle Extension, 2½; Northern and Eastern, 69; North Kent and Direct Dover, 3; North Staffordshire, 3½ pm.; North Wales, 3½; Northampton, Banbury, and Cheltenham, 2; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 15½; Portsmouth Direct, 4½; Preston and Wyre, 34; Richmond, 16½; Rugby and Huntingdon, 1½; Shrewsbury and Birmingham, 3½; Shropshire Union, ½ dis.; South Midland, 2½ pm.; South Eastern and Dover, New (£30), 11½; Ditto New (do. £15), 3½; South Wales, 6½; Tean and Dove Valley, 4½; Trent Valley and Holyhead Junction, 1½; Welsh Midland, 1½; West Cornwall, 1½; Wilts, Somerset, and Weymouth, 3½; York and Carlisle, 2½; Dutch Rhemish, 7½; East Indian, 1½; Great North of France Constituted, 14½; Great Indian Peninsular, ½; Great Western Canada, 3½; Luxembourg, 2½; Orleans and Vierzon, 17; Orleans and Bourdeaux, 11; Paris and Orleans, 48½; Paris and Rouen, 39½; Paris and Strasbourg (Ganneron's), 2½; West Flanders, 5.

SATURDAY MORNING.—Consols improved a shade yesterday, closing at 94½ for Money, and 95½ for Account. The Share Market continued flat, but the account has passed off with tolerable facility.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

TUESDAY JAN. 27.

WHITEHALL, JAN. 24.—The Queen has been pleased to direct letters patent to be passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, granting the office and place of Advocate-General or Judge-Martial of her Majesty's Court of Chivalry to the Honourable James Stuart Wortley.

WHITEHALL, JAN. 26.—The Queen has been pleased to constitute and appoint the Right Hon. Thomas Barry Cusack Smith, her Majesty's Attorney-General in Ireland, to be Keeper or Master of the Rolls and Records of the Court of Chancery in that part of the United Kingdom called Ireland.

COMMISSIONS SIGNED BY LORDS LIEUTENANT.—William Ford Hulton, Esq., to be Deputy-Lieutenant of the County of Lancashire. John Sidney North, Esq., W. P. W. Freeman, Esq., Henry Philip Powys, Esq., Benjamin John Whippy, Esq., to be Deputy-Lieutenants of the County of Oxford. James Ke, Esq., to be Deputy-Lieutenant of the County of Perth.

County Militia. F. L. Dashwood, Esq., to be Captain; A. M. Matthews, Esq., to be ditto.

Royal Berkshire Militia: The Hon. John Rolls to be Captain, vice Sir J. S. Richardson, Bart.; Ensign S. R. Herbertson to be Lieutenant, vice A. Campbell, T. Nicoll, to be Lieutenant, vice G. B. Walcott.

Royal North Lincoln Militia: G. Gurley, to be Lieutenant. S. F. Walsh, to be Ensign.

Royal South Lincoln Militia: S. Brailford, to be Lieutenant.

DECLARATION OF INSOLVENCY.—C. Later, Haymarket, no business.

BANKRUPTS.—W. W. Sanderson, Great Russell-street, Covent-garden, baker. T. TUBBS, Palace-row, New-road, cowkeeper and milkman. C. GIBSON, South-street, Grosvenor-square, cheesemonger, greener. J. CARLILE, Little Love-lane, Wood-street, City, commission agent and merchant. M. and H. EMANUEL, Hammer-square, gildsmiths and silversmiths. R. G. FOX, Canterbury, wine and spirit merchant. J. HCAN, Norwich, haberdashery. L. KENNEDY, Rochester-terrace, Stoke Newington to Middlesex, pawnbroker. T. OAKLEY, ironmonger. E. BARNES, Aldborough, otherwise Aldeburgh, Suffolk, wine merchant. L. CLAYTON, Edgware-road, licensed victualler. J. COULSON, Bridge-water, Somersetshire, provision dealer, and greener. J. MASSEY, Brunel, Staffordshire, gas-fitter, and engineer. J. MELCHUR, Exeter, innkeeper. S. CULLEN, Nottingham, chemist and druggist. J. HILL, Leeds, Yorkshire, shoe-maker. MARY MACNAIR or BROWN, Glasgow, fisher. H. JOHNSON, Glasgow, manufacturer. R. RUSSELL, Glasgow, bookmaker. D. CARTEIL, Aberdeen, machine-maker. J. S. BODSTEIN, Glasgow, calico-printer.

FRIDAY, JAN. 30.

TOWNING-STREET, JAN. 30.—The Queen has been pleased to appoint George Frederick de Street, Esq., to be Judge-Judge, printing-office, New Brunswick, Esq., to be her Majesty's Advocate-General, and William Boyd Kinneir, Esq., to be her Majesty's Solicitor-General, for that province.

Her Majesty has further been pleased to appoint Samuel Turner Pearson, Esq., to be Registrar-General and Collector of Customs Revenue for the Island of Hong Kong.

WHITEHALL, JAN. 21.—The Lord Chancellor has appointed William Phillips, of Helmsley, in the County of York, to be a Justice of the Peace for the County of York.

WHITEHALL, JAN. 20.—2nd Division of the Militia: Major W. Campbell to be Lieutenant-Colonel, vice Charleston; Major Major P. Le Pier to be Major, vice Campbell; Lieut P. H. Ibbotson to be Captain, vice Trinch; Cornet V. Carr to be Lieutenant, vice Ibbotson; Lieut. H. Saunders to be Cornet, vice Carr. 6th: Capt. W. N. Custance to be Captain, vice J. H. Dicks, n.

4th Light Dragoons: Major W. Farley to be Lieutenant-Colonel, vice Pelly; Capt. Lord G. A. Light to be Major, vice Pelly; Lieut. G. J. Brown to be Captain, vice Lord G. Paggi; Capt. L. G. A. Chubb to be Lieutenant, vice Brown; H. N. Cloughy to be Cornet, vice Lord A. Chubb.

8th Foot: Lieut. L. G. Cox to be Lieutenant, vice Young; 47th: Lieut. C. F. Fordyce to be Captain, vice Caldwell; Ensign C. C. Villiers to be Lieutenant, vice Fordyce; Cadet G. W. Armit to be Ensign, vice Gordon; T. Hoper to be Ensign, vice Villiers. 57th: Cadet J. Stewart to be

street, London; and sons by an American father.

NOOKS AND CORNERS OF OLD ENGLAND.

THE ORD BRIDGE, LANCASTER.

The last arch of the ancient Bridge crossing the Loyne, or Lune, at Lancaster, fell on the morning of the 28th of December last. This was the first Bridge built in Lancaster, and is supposed to have been constructed by the Danes; though, the town itself is of much higher antiquity. It is inferred, from the Roman antiquities discovered here, to have been a *Station*: Camden will have it to be the Longovicus of the Notitia; and others, the Ad Alannam of Richard of Cirencester. It is stated to have been dismantled by the Picts, after the departure of the Romans, but restored by the Anglo-Saxons of Northumbria, under whom it first gave name to the Shire.



THE ORD BRIDGE, LANCASTER.

The above Bridge was purchased from the County in 1802, by Mr. Brockbank, a ship-builder, whose premises it adjoined; and, there being another Bridge erected above the old one, across the Lune, Mr. Brockbank removed one of the arches of the ancient Bridge, (as shown in our Engraving), for the convenience of taking large vessels through, it being difficult to get them under the Bridge. But for this removal of one arch, it is believed that the Bridge would have served as a public roadway for ages; and thus has "time-honoured Lancaster" lost one of its antiquarian attractions, though still to be cherished in our columns. The illustration shows the Bridge as it appeared some 40 years since.

ODE, BY THE MAYOR OF CANTON.

We have received from a Correspondent a copy of an Ode, composed on board H.M.S. *Vixen*, by Lew-tsin, Lord Mayor of Canton, together with a sketch of the civic composer.

AN ODE,

COMPOSED BY LEW-TSIN, LORD MAYOR OF CANTON, DOCTOR OF THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE, ON BOARD OF H. M. STEAMER "VIXEN," ON HIS PASSAGE TO CANTON, AFTER A VISIT TO HONG-KONG, NOVEMBER 25, 1845.

(Translated from the original, by Charles Gutzlaff, Esq.)

Whilst the white hoary frost drop down on the fragrant but leafless trees of the forest, and sombre vapours arise between enchanted hills and defiles; whilst the foaming wave of the blue deep darts heaven-ward, and the zephyrs dispel earth's gloom; it is then that, seated amongst a grove of marygold flower-bushes, I, with tears, remember in the solitary back, the days now past, as if I had left my very home; my heart grows cold; my robe flutters; I am as a man pierced by a dagger; I look upon yonder Royal White City,* on the high cliffs, whilst the shades of evening are falling; there it stands, lonely like Kivei.† Soon the glorious orb disappears, but I am still lingering, directing my views towards the south stars, as if I beheld gorgeous flowers; but the harbinger of light departs, and now I weep with bitterness, whilst floating on the ark, as if mindful of by-gone times; and as I sink on my pillow, there stands still before me the splendid town, the fragrant incense urn with its abode on the mountains,‡ with its painted walls, which I have just left; silently wailing in the sorrow of my soul, I am induced once more to recall the tendrils§ that twine themselves round these cliffs. Suddenly, the bright moon breaks through the clouds, and now behold the bamboo and jessamine on the islets: thousands of habitations have sprung up on the vast heights, and soon the silent morning sun sheds lustre upon innumerable spacious mansions, so magnificent and grand; yet on this spot, where once only the hovels of the roving fisherman, who has now departed as swallows in autumn. Thus I recorded my uncontrollable regret in the above lines, when leaving your empire, on returning from Hong-Kong on board a marine vessel in the tenth month of the yeh-se year.



THE POET MAYOR OF CANTON.

Like Hong-Kong, my renown is small; like Lew-Heang I have taught the classics, but acted contrary to their doctrines. I am a youth of slender attainments, and similar to a hairy horse that possesses no real substance.

(Signed)

Your old friend of the Diamond Hall wrote this.

True copy, E. H. L. S. his mark.

* The Town of Victoria, Hong-Kong. † A place built on a rock.
‡ Alluding to Hong-Kong, which in Chinese signifies fragrant streams.
§ The ladies of Hong-Kong!!!

LORD BROUGHAM IN DANGER.—On Tuesday (last week), as the steamer was leaving Boulogne for Folkestone in a gale, having on board Lord Brougham as a passenger, she ducked into a heavy sea, damaged the cabouse, and filled her fore-castle with water. Fortunately nothing serious was the result.

THE MILITIA.—The following are the qualifications for holding commissions in the militia:—For colonel, £1000 a-year landed property, or to be heir apparent to £2000 a-year. For lieutenant-colonel, £6000 a-year landed property, or to be heir apparent to £1200 a-year. For major, £400 a-year landed property, or to be heir apparent to £800 a-year. For captain, £200 a-year landed property, or to be heir apparent to £400 a-year. One half of such property must be in the county to which such regiment belongs.

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INTERIOR OF SEACROFT CHURCH, NEAR LEEDS.

SEACROFT CHURCH.

This excellent specimen of the early English style has lately been completed at Seacroft, near Leeds, from the design of Mr. Hellyer, of Ryde, Isle of Wight. The contract was taken by Mr. Benjamin Russell, of Leeds, at £1915.

The church consists, in plan, of a nave, north aisle, and transept, with a very bold chancel. At the west end of the aisle rises a tower and spire, 94 feet in height; and the principal entrance is by a well-proportioned porch. The view of the exterior from the north-east and north-west, is exceedingly picturesque; and the finely designed pile forms a striking feature on the road to York and Tadcaster.

Our illustration will convey a correct idea of the architectural treatment of the interior, which is especially successful in the chancel; windows wherein are filled with stained glass, with figures and emblems, the offerings of private individuals. The roof is open, and rich in chromatic decoration; and the walls bear labels with inscriptions. The

seats are open, and will accommodate 400 persons, the whole of which, except about 20, are free. The ornamented font is shown to the right of our Engraving.

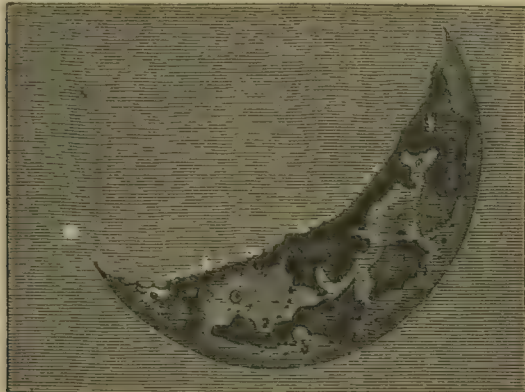
The following are the main dimensions of the edifice: nave, 74 ft. by 24 feet; north aisle, 27 ft. by 11 ft.; transept, 19 ft. 6 in. by 15 ft.; chancel, 26 ft. by 16 ft.; tower, 8 ft. 3 in. square.

This church has been built by subscription, assisted by grants from the Incorporated Society for Building Churches and Chapels; and by the Ripon Diocesan Society. Among those who have contributed to the good work are the family of Mr. Wilson, of Seacroft Hall; and the Rev. A. Martineau, vicar of Whithick, in which parish Seacroft is situate. The above is, therefore, a district church: the incumbent is the Rev. H. Blanchard.

We are happy to learn that the new church has given universal satisfaction to the district; and on the day of consecration it elicited a high compliment from the Bishop of Ripon.

ASTRONOMICAL PHENOMENON, TO-MORROW (SUNDAY) EVENING.

We quote the following from the "Illustrated London Almanack" for the present year:—



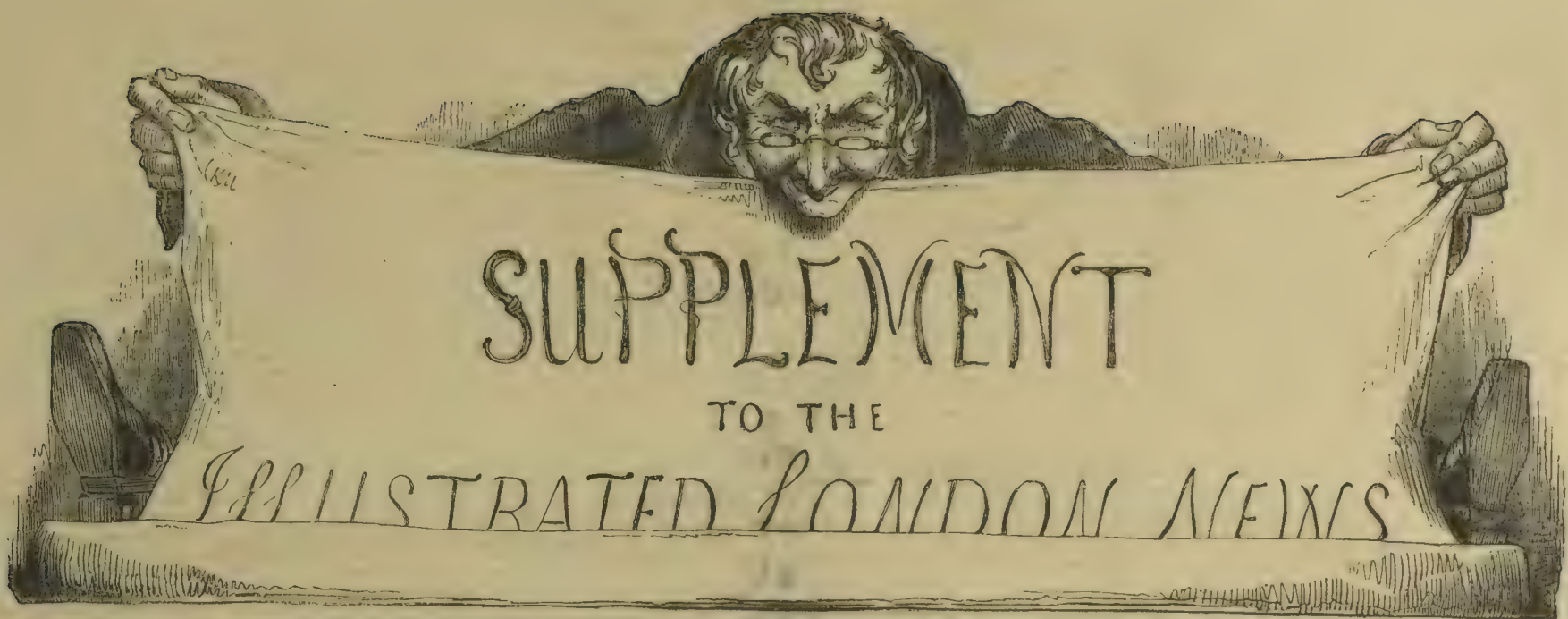
ASTRONOMICAL PHENOMENON.

"On February 1, during the evening, the Moon, Jupiter and Mars are near to each other. At 10h. 3m., the Moon will occult Mars, or Mars will become hidden by the Moon, and remain thus hidden for

twenty minutes, till 10h. 23m., at which time he will re-appear at the lowest part of the Moon. The phenomenon is represented in the accompanying drawing. The Planet will disappear on the left hand side of the Moon, and a little above its enlightened part.

"At the time of the phenomenon, the Moon will be due West. The planet Mars during this month will be near to Jupiter, appearing W. of him till the 15th and 16th days, at which time he will be immediately above Jupiter; and he continues above him by quantities becoming greater and greater, day by day. After the 16th day, he will be E. of Jupiter, and will be more and more separated from him day by day."

WILL OF THE LATE EARL GRANVILLE, G.C.B., P.C.—The will of the late Right Hon. Granville, Earl Granville, Baron Leveson, was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on Friday, the 23rd inst., by the Right Hon. Granville George, Earl Granville, the eldest son and sole executor. The personal estate was sworn under £160,000. For his wife, the Countess, a provision is made by the will and marriage settlement to secure for her life £3000 per annum, a legacy of £1000 for immediate requirements, and the selection of such carriages, horses, furniture, books, pictures, and household effects as she may be pleased to have for her absolute use. £6000 is also appointed by the settlement to each of his two daughters, and £12,000 to his younger son, the Hon. Edward Frederick Leveson Gower, and a legacy of £6000 at the death of his mother the Countess; also certain undivided shares in the Lilleshall Company. All his other shares and interest and property in the said Company he leaves under the same trusts and conditions as his real estates—subject to certain payments and charges—the tenant in tail in possession to act as the proprietor, and as if he was the sole absolute owner. His real estate is devised to the present Earl and his issue male; in failure to his younger son, Edward Frederick Leveson Gower and his issue male; on failure of male issue, to their daughters; and on failure, to right heirs. There are but few legacies. £500 is left to Mr. G. A. Stewart, and the like sum to his sister, Mrs. Hannah Osborne; and legacies to his servants. The present Earl is appointed residuary legatee. The will is dated October 15, 1841, and three codicils were added last year.

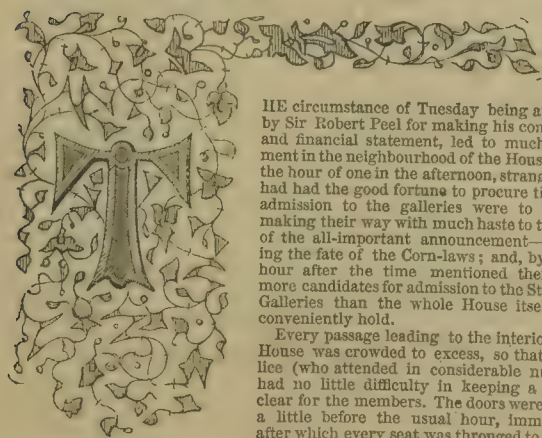


FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 1846.

[GRATIS.]

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.



THE circumstance of Tuesday being appointed by Sir Robert Peel for making his commercial and financial statement, led to much excitement in the neighbourhood of the House. From the hour of one in the afternoon, strangers who had had the good fortune to procure tickets of admission to the galleries were to be seen making their way with much haste to the scene of the all-important announcement—respecting the fate of the Corn-laws; and, by half an hour after the time mentioned there were more candidates for admission to the Strangers' Galleries than the whole House itself could conveniently hold.

Every passage leading to the interior of the House was crowded to excess, so that the police (who attended in considerable numbers) had no little difficulty in keeping a passage clear for the members. The doors were opened a little before the usual hour, immediately after which every seat was thronged to such an extent as not to leave a single one unoccupied, and mortification of some hundreds who, having tickets, calculated upon admission as a certainty.

In the street—from the end of Parliament-street to the south end of Westminster Abbey—the footways on both sides were densely thronged with, for the greater part, well-dressed persons, who contented themselves with inquiring of their neighbours the names of many members as they passed, or pointing out to others those whom they themselves happened to know.

Many hon. members who are opposed to the Corn-laws as they now stand were cheered as they passed, and amongst these none received louder or more hearty cheers than the Duke of Wellington.

The attendance of members in the house was very numerous. There were not less than 400 present at half-past four. The seats below the bar, usually reserved for strangers, were filled with Peers and other distinguished visitors.

Lord John Russell entered the House about half-past four, and remained standing for some time at the bar, conversing freely with some young member. Sir Robert Peel entered about ten minutes later, with somewhat less of his usual *mauvaise honte*, and (very unusually for him) stopped on the way to his seat, and shook hands cordially with Lord Ashley. Soon afterwards his Royal Highness Prince Albert entered the house, dressed as a private gentleman, attracted there, no doubt, by the importance of the debate, and probably desirous to see how a great orator and statesman would acquit himself on this great occasion. His Royal Highness was accompanied by the Earl of Jersey, and took a seat below the serjeant's chair, but we believe within the bar, and one of those usually occupied by members. His Royal Highness was soon joined by the Duke of Cambridge, on whose arrival cordial greetings were exchanged between the Royal relatives. The seats below the bar were thronged chiefly with members of the Upper House, including several of the Bishops. Above them also we could discover, glancing through the pigeon holes, several ladies.

The preliminary business was confined to the presentation of Petitions.

REPEAL OF THE CORN-LAWS AND RELAXATION OF COMMERCIAL RESTRICTIONS.

Sir R. PEEL moved that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, on customs and corn importation, and that so much of her Majesty's most gracious Speech as related thereto be referred to the same Committee.

On the question that the Speaker do leave the chair,

Mr. W. MILES said he wished to ask a question, which he was quite certain would be answered by the right hon. Baronet with his usual courtesy. It was simply this—the right hon. Baronet was about to make a financial explanation, and he (Mr. Miles) wished to know whether he intended to take any vote to-night? From what the right hon. Baronet had previously stated, and from the remarks made by other members of her Majesty's Government, the statement would, no doubt, be rather a complicated one, and he (Mr. Miles) hoped that, previously to coming to any decision, ample time would be given to the country to consider all the measures (hear, hear), and decide upon them affirmatively or negatively, by the means which the Constitution afforded them. Ample time, he trusted, would be given to the counties to express their opinions. (Laughter from the Opposition.)

Sir R. PEEL was quite ready to give the hon. gentleman any explanation in his power. The statement which he was about to make would be very extensive, and, in some respects, complicated. It would be rather a commercial than a financial statement. It was not his intention to ask the House of Commons to pronounce an opinion upon any part of the statement which he was about to make. It was his most earnest wish that the matter should be fully and sufficiently considered—that it should be judged of as a whole, as a comprehensive settlement of a great question. (Hear, hear.) He, therefore, did not propose to ask any opinion whatever of the House, either upon the general propriety of the plan, or any of its details, until after the lapse of some days. (Hear, hear.)

The House then resolved itself into Committee, Mr. Greene in the chair. The portion of her Majesty's Speech relative to commerce and protective duties having been read,

Sir R. PEEL rose about twelve minutes before five, and said—Mr. Greene, whatever opinion may be ultimately formed with regard to the merits of the proposal which I am about, on the part of her Majesty's Government, to submit this night to the consideration of the House, I am confident that the extreme difficulty of the task which it devolves upon me to perform, and the great magnitude of the interests which are concerned in the proposal I am about to make, will ensure to me that patient and indulgent attention, without which it would be wholly out of my power, either with satisfaction to myself or to the public interests, to discharge the duty I have undertaken to perform. Sir, in pursuance of the recommendations of her Majesty's Speech from the throne, advised by her responsible servants, I am about to review the duties which apply to many articles, the produce and manufactures of other countries. I am about to proceed on the assumption adopted in the Speech from the throne, that the repeal of prohibitory and the relaxation of protective duties is in itself a wise policy—(cheers)—that protective duties abstractedly and on principle, are open to objection—(cheers)—that the policy of maintaining them may be defended, but that there must be shown to be

special considerations either of public advantage or of justice to vindicate the maintenance of them. (Cheers.) I am about to act on this presumption—that during the period of the last three years there has been in this country an increased productiveness of revenue, notwithstanding the relaxation of heavy taxation—(cheers)—that there has been an increased demand for labour; that there has been increased commerce; that there has been increased comfort, contentment, and peace in this country. (Cheers.) I do not say that these great blessings have necessarily been caused by any particular policy which you have adopted; but this I say, that the enjoyment of these inestimable benefits has been at least concurrent with your policy—that policy which has been sanctioned by the House of Commons—the policy of repealing prohibitory, and reducing protective duties. I am not now, therefore, by pursuing that policy, about to call upon the House of Commons to recede from any course which it has hitherto pursued. It is a policy which has received its deliberate and repeated sanction, and if it has been productive of public good, it will be perfectly consistent with the course hitherto pursued to persevere in that policy. At the same time, in advising the continued application of these principles, I am not about to disregard this other recommendation in her Majesty's Speech, namely—that in the adoption of principles, however sound, we should not be unmindful of the public credit, and that we should take care not to cause any permanent loss in the public revenue. (Cheers.) That other recommendation also,—that in the application of sound principles we should act with so much of caution and forbearance as not injuriously to affect any of the great interests of the country, will not be neglected by me. Above all, I trust that that recommendation of her Majesty—the confidence, rather, expressed by her Majesty—that that great subject will receive the just and dispassionate consideration of the House of Commons, will be justified by the result. I have already stated, in answer to the question put to me by the hon. member for Somersetshire (Mr. Miles), that I do not contemplate asking of the House of Commons to pronounce to-night any opinion upon the whole or any part of the proposal I am about to make. It is the wish of her Majesty's Government that that proposal should be deliberately and dispassionately considered. It may be possible, as I am about to affect so many interests, that all may unite in the conclusion that this is a rash and improvident scheme, and ought at once to be discouraged and extinguished. If that be the prevailing impression on the part of those who are called on to relinquish the supposed benefit of protection, nothing will be more easy than on that night on which we approach the serious consideration of this question to invite the House to put on record their approbation of some principle counter to that on which we are about to act (cheers); to resolve, for instance, “that protection to domestic industry is in itself a good,” and that that principle ought to be sanctioned by the House. (Cheers.) On the other hand, the conclusion drawn by this House and by the country may be that, considering all the great difficulties of this question—considering the variety of opinions, considering the nature of the contest which has long been sustained, and which, I fear, will long continue, unless there be a satisfactory and early adjustment of this question (cheers); it may be that even those who may dissent from particular parts of the scheme I am about to submit may be disposed to accept it as a whole, and the voice of the country may pronounce an opinion, that the plan I propose is not an inequitable or unwise adjustment, and, rather than continue perpetual conflict, ought to be accepted. If that be the conclusion to which the general opinion of the reasonable and intelligent of all classes shall tend, in that case I shall have confidence of ultimate success. On the other hand, if so many interests are affected by the application of the great principle that protective duties are not in themselves abstractedly good, and ought to be relinquished, and if those interests should combine in opposition to my proposal, the sooner it is disposed of the better it will be for the public interests. The principle to which I have referred, namely, the relaxation of protective duties, I am not about to apply to any one particular interest. (Cheers.) I am not about to select that great interest connected with the agriculture of this country, and call on them to resign protection, unprepared at the same time to call on other protected interests to make the same sacrifice. (Cheers.) I make no separate and isolated proposals. I have confidence that the proposal for which I contend is just, when I ask all protectionists to make the sacrifice, if it be a sacrifice, which the application of the principle requires of them. (Cheers.) Sir, the House is aware that, during the last three years, what is called the tariff, *i.e.*, the whole scheme of Customs' duties, has been submitted to the review and consideration of Parliament. In 1842, it was my duty, as the organ of the Government, to propose a great change in the then existing Customs duties. The general principle of the plan upon which we then acted was to remit the duties upon articles of raw material constituting the elements of manufacturing industry. The principle of it also was to subject manufactured articles, the effect of the labour of other countries, to duties not exceeding 20 per cent. Not only in 1842, but at subsequent periods, the House adopted the principle upon which it acted in 1842. Notwithstanding the apprehension of falling revenue, we did select great articles, being raw materials, for the remission of taxation. In 1844, we reduced altogether the duty upon wool; in 1845, we reduced altogether the duty upon cotton. There hardly remains a raw material imported from other countries upon which the duty has not been reduced. The manufacturers of this country, therefore, have at present an advantage which they have not heretofore enjoyed—they have free access to the raw materials which constitute immediately the fabrics of their manufactures. I am entitled, therefore, I think, to call upon the manufacturer to relax the protection which he enjoys. (Cheers.) He has an advantage which he has not hitherto possessed. I think there might have been great doubt whether or no you might not have continued to derive the revenue you have hitherto derived from the import of cotton wool, even if the duty which existed in 1844 had continued. But the House was sensible that with the continuance of that tax there was a formidable competition; and the House disregarded the consideration of some £600,000 or £700,000 of revenue—they wished to establish the prosperity of the great staple manufacture of this country, the cotton manufacture, on some sure and certain foundation; they willingly, therefore, consented to forego an amount of duty so easily levied, and causing so little complaint from the great body of the people, without, perhaps, minute inquiry into its immediate effect; and both with regard to sheep's wool and cotton wool, this House has subjected itself to the impost of an Income-tax, and out of consideration for the permanent prosperity of manufactures, remitted the duties attached to the raw material. (Cheers.)

Sir, I propose, in taking the review of duties still existing, to which we are invited by her Majesty, to continue to act upon the principle which this House has sanctioned; and I take in the first instance those articles of raw materials which still remain subject to duty. I mean to deal with them in order, still further to enable me to call on the manufacturer to relax the protection he still enjoys. (Cheers.)

Sir, there is hardly any other article of the nature of a raw material which is now subject to duty except tallow, and perhaps I ought to add timber. With respect to tallow, which is of the nature of raw material which is largely used in many manufactures—manufactures of great importance to the comfort of the great body of the people, I mean soap, candles, &c., I propose a reduction in the amount of duty which is levied on that article. Russia is the country from which chiefly our imports of tallow are derived. There is at present a duty on tallow to the amount of 3s. 2d. per cwt. The subject was adverted to in the course of the discussions on the last tariff; and mainly with a view to our own interests, but partly for the purpose of encouraging Russia to proceed in that liberal policy of which I trust she has given some indication. I propose, without stipulation (cheers), that England should set the example (cheers) by that relaxation of those heavy duties, in the confidence that that example will ultimately prevail (cheers); that the interests of the great body of consumers will soon influence the action of Governments, and that our example, even if we don't purchase any immediate reciprocal benefit, yet, whilst by a reduction like that we shall, in the first instance, improve our own manufacture, I believe we shall soon reap the other advantage of deriving some equivalent in our commercial intercourse. (Cheers.) I propose, therefore, to reduce the duty on tallow from 3s. 2d. per cwt. to 1s. 6d. (Hear, hear.) I am taking the articles which are of the nature of raw materials.

Now, with respect to timber: I don't mean to except the duties on timber from the review I am about to undertake. (Hear, hear.) We have admitted timber the produce of our colonial possessions, to be imported at a nominal duty; I am about to affect domestic interests by the relaxation of protective duties, and we have a perfect right, I think, if they be protected, to affect colonial interests. (Hear, hear.) The question of timber is a very difficult one. I am prepared to make a definite proposal with respect to every other article. I know the advantage of early communication—that communication shall take place,—but I am most anxious, in effecting reductions of the duty on timber, to insure to the consumer the benefit of the whole change. (Cheers.) The course which Government will probably take will be a gradual reduction of the existing amount of duty, where it shall rest a certain time, lower than at present, the reduction being so apportioned, if possible, as to prevent any derangement of internal trade by inducing parties to withhold the supply of timber in the hope of realising a large amount of duty, and yet at the same time, as the importation of timber from the Baltic partakes in some respect, from the nature of the article, of a monopoly, to take care the reduction of duty should be an advantage not so much to the producer but to the consumer. In a day or two after the opportunity of a more minute consideration of details, the intention of the Government with regard to timber shall be made known. The subject, I have said, is a very complicated one, and it is very difficult to get the requisite information, as it is absolutely necessary to keep your intentions a perfect secret before you announce your plan. I trust, however, the House will be satisfied with my general expression of our intention to make a gradual reduction of the duty on timber spread over a certain number of years; but three or four days must elapse before we can more specifically announce our plan. These are reductions only; they are not the repeal of duties on articles of the nature of raw materials. With these exceptions, I hardly know a raw material in respect of which there is any duty.

Having now taken that course, having given the manufacturer the advantage of a free command, without any impost, of the raw materials which enter into his fabrics, I call upon the manufacturers of the three great articles which enter into consumption as the clothing of the great body of the community, to give that proof which I am sure they will give of the sincerity of their conviction as to the impolicy of protective duties, by consenting to relax the protection on their manufactures. (Loud cheers from the Opposition benches.) The three great branches of manufacture of which I speak are those which are immediately concerned with the clothing of the great body of the people—I speak of the linen, the woollen, and the cotton manufactures. (Cheers.) I ask them at once to set the example to others by relaxing voluntarily and cheerfully the protection they enjoy. (Cheers.) Sir, an hon. friend of mine, the member for Dorsetshire—and I assure him I shall still call him my hon. friend, for it shall not be my fault if any unfortunate differences on political subjects interfere with private friendships (cheers); without any of the reserves and restraints which appear to embarrass him, I therefore at once call him by that appellation by which I have always addressed him (cheers)—my hon. friend expressed a hope, being jealous of the expressions in the Speech, that the small interests of the country would not be forgotten. He said, “Her Majesty is solicitous that the great interests of the country should not be injuriously affected; but nothing is said of the smaller interests.” Now, I do not mean in this review of the Tariff to subject myself to the imputation to which I was subjected before. I mean to affect great interests, and, if possible, to treat with forbearance and consideration the smaller interests. I shall, therefore, fulfil my hon. friend's views, and gratify his expectations, by assuring him that he will have no cause to complain, that while the great interests are affected, the smaller interests are neglected. For instance, in dealing with the clothing of the great body of the people, I shall call on the manufacturers of the great articles of cotton, woollen, and linen, to relinquish that protection which they at present enjoy; but with regard to those articles which are made up, and which, consequently, employ the labour of the industrious classes of this country, I shall propose to treat them with more forbearance, and to continue some protective duty. As the case now stands, the great articles of the cotton manufacture, such as calicoes, prints, &c., are subject to a duty of 10 per cent. on importation, while cottons made up, such for instance as cotton stockings, &c., when brought from abroad, are subject to a duty of 20 per cent. With respect to cotton manufacture generally, which is now subject to a duty of 10 per cent., I propose that it should be imported duty free (loud cries of “Hear”), and that duty of 20 per cent., which now applies to the manufactured articles of cotton in a more advanced state, I propose to reduce to 10 per cent. (Hear.) That is to say, that on the great articles of cotton manufacture, which constitute the articles of clothing for the great mass of the people, there will be no import duty, while the import duty on cotton articles in a more advanced state of manufacture will be 10 per cent. (A cry of “Take it all off,” and some slight interruption.) The only favour I ask is, that I may be permitted to state the whole of the plan (cheers), without any inferences being drawn at once as to any particular parts. (Hear, hear.) I may have to make qualifications—to adopt precautions, and the first part of my proposal may give rise to erroneous conclusions, unless the judgment is suspended until the whole is explained. (Hear, hear.) All I ask, therefore, is, not even that you should suspend your judgment to a future day, but that at any rate you

should wait until I conclude my observations. (Cheers.) I am the more anxious to call on the manufacturers to set this example of relinquishing protective duties, because, according to a very high authority, it was not the agriculturists, but it was the manufacturers who called on the Legislature, in the first instance, for protective duties. (Hear, hear.) It was the mercantile and manufacturing interest which set the example of requiring protection, and it is, therefore, but justice that they should set the example, as I doubt not they cheerfully will, of relinquishing that protection. (Cheers.) Nothing can be more remarkable than the observation made by one who had no prejudices in favour of the agriculturists. Dr. Adam Smith, speaking historically, says:—"Country gentlemen and farmers are, to their great honour, of all people, the least subject to the wretched spirit of monopoly." (Laughter, and loud ironical cheering from the Opposition.) I am speaking now of the origin of this protection; and, at any rate, Dr. Smith was a most impartial authority, with no leaning or bias towards the agriculturists. Speaking as an historian, he states what, in consequence of the interruption I met with, I have the pleasure of repeating, that it was not the agriculturists who are responsible for the restrictive system, but the manufacturers. He says:—"Country gentlemen and farmers, are, to their great honour, of all people, the least subject to the wretched spirit of monopoly." (Renewed laughter.) Dispersed in different parts of the country, they cannot so easily combine as merchants and manufacturers, who, being collected in towns, and accustomed to that exclusive corporation spirit which prevails in them, naturally endeavour to obtain against all their countrymen the same exclusive privilege which they generally possess against the inhabitants of their respective towns. They accordingly seem to have been the original inventors of those restraints upon the importation of foreign goods which secure to them the monopoly of the home market. It was probably in imitation of them, and to put themselves on a level with those who they found were disposed to oppress them; that the country gentlemen and farmers of Great Britain so far forgot the generosity which is natural to their station, as to demand the exclusive privilege of supplying their countrymen with corn and butcher's meat. They did not, perhaps, take time to consider how much less their interest could be affected by the freedom of trade than that of the people whose example they followed." This extract may excite the laughter of some gentlemen on the other side of the House; but I believe the statement to be perfectly correct, that the restriction did not originate with the agriculturists, but that it was pressed on the Legislature in the first instance by the mercantile and manufacturing interests; and that it was afterwards adopted and extended, as a necessary consequence, by the agricultural interest. I may therefore invite, in the first instance, the manufacturing interest to relinquish protective duties. (Hear, hear.) I propose, also, to call on the manufacturers of linen and woollen, the two other great articles in addition to cotton concerned in the production of the clothing of the great body of the people, to relinquish, as I believe they can without injury to themselves, protection with respect to the coarser articles of their manufacture. (Hear, hear.) There will be some loss to the revenue, but I believe that the importation of some articles, competing with the production of our manufacturers, will stimulate their skill; and, with the capital and enterprise of this country, I do not doubt but that they will beat foreign manufacture. At present, woollen goods which are made up are subject, under the reduced tariff of 1842, to a duty of 20 per cent.; and I propose that, as in the case of made-up cotton goods, the duty should be reduced from 20 per cent. to 10 per cent. In the cotton and woollen trade we have given to the manufacturers the unrestricted power of importing the raw material. The same may be said with regard to the linen manufactures. Flax is free from any duty. I had occasion to say the other night that there is no duty whatever on the import of foreign flax. I propose that in the case of linen, as in the case of cotton and woollen, the coarser articles of manufacture—those which are used by the great body of the people—should be permitted to come into the country duty free. With respect to the made-up articles of linen, there are some very fine, some not of general consumption, but partaking of the character of luxuries, such as cambries, &c., and other articles used by the rich; but I do not propose, even with respect to them, to maintain the present amount of duty, but to place them all on a level. I propose that the amount of the duty now levied on made-up linens should be reduced to one-half.

There is another article which does not fall within these principles, but with respect to which I think it of great importance, not that we should adopt the same principle, but yet apply to it a great reduction of duty—I allude to silks. The existing duty on silks apparently operates as a protection to the domestic manufacture. You have a duty, which is called one of 30 per cent., but which with respect to many articles is a great deal higher; and a false reliance is placed on that as a protection. It is no such thing. There are many houses in Paris and on the coast which will guarantee the delivery of goods in London at one-half of the duty. (Hear, hear.) It is, therefore, a clear loss in the first place, and encouragement to smuggling; but it is a delusion on the part of the labouring classes employed in the silk manufacture, to suppose that they enjoy a protection, of which they are in reality robbed by the smuggler and dishonest consumer. (Hear, hear.) I conceive, by a new arrangement with respect to the silk duties—by a reduction of the amount of the duty levied on silks—we are not interfering with any domestic interests; but we are, I believe, stimulating skill and industry in this country; diminishing the profits of the smuggler, and encouraging lawful and innocent traffic instead of an immoral one. (Hear, hear.) The general impression is, that the duty is only 30 per cent. on silk manufactures. I hold in my hand an account of the duties on silk manufactures; and though, in respect to some, the duty may not exceed 30 per cent., and in respect to others it may be less, yet there are many articles in respect to which the duty is much higher. In the case of crape, the duty is not less than from 43 to 50 per cent.; on velvet, from 34 to 50 per cent.; on silk net, from 36 to 78 per cent.; on manufactured bonnets, 145 per cent.; and on turbans or caps, at least as much. Does any man believe that a French turban, or cap, or bonnet, pays that amount of duty? It is no such thing. The article is in common use, but it is introduced by the smuggler. (Hear, hear.) I propose a new arrangement with respect to silks, but I must not at present enter into too much detail. Of course, every proposal I make will be in the hands of honourable members to-morrow morning. With respect to silks, I propose to adopt a new principle. The general rule will be, enumerating each article of silk manufacture, to levy a duty of so much per pound, giving an option to the Custom-house officers of levying for every £100 value of silk a duty of 15 per cent. This will be the adoption of a principle of 15 per cent. with respect to silks, instead of the present variable and capricious duty, which is called one of 30 per cent., but which is less in some instances, and vastly more in others.

There is another article of manufacture which enters or may enter into competition with the manufacture of this country, and on which the duty, I think, is extravagant. I think the qualified admission of the foreign article will do no injury to our manufacture, but, on the contrary, is likely to stimulate the exercise of skill in its improvement. After the remission which has been made, I think, too, that the manufacture to which I allude has no right to retain its present enormous amount of import duty. I speak of paper—paper-hangings. The duty on French paper-hangings brought into this country is 1s. the square yard, applied indiscriminately; but it is possible to sell some descriptions of this article at one farthing per square yard. With respect to paper-hangings not worth more than one farthing the square yard, such a duty appears exorbitant, and I propose to reduce it from 1s. to 2d. the square yard.

I approach now those manufactures which are connected with metals. (A slight laugh.) I do not know what excites the risibility of some hon. members, but, however it may offend some, it is my duty to explain these matters. (Hear, hear.) With respect to metals, we have reduced the duty on foreign ores, and if there be any manufacture which can or ought to compete with the foreigner, it is the manufacture of metals in this country. (Hear, hear.) The manufactures of metal, speaking generally, are now all charged with a duty of 15 per cent. *ad valorem*. I propose, with respect to them and all other articles which I do not specifically mention, that the general rule shall be that no duty should exceed 10 per cent.; that should be the *maximum*. It is impossible to adopt this principle with respect to some articles—paper-hangings, &c., and I mention those which I except from the rule of paying 10 per cent. *ad valorem*. But with regard to the great mass of manufactures, which are subject to a duty of 20 per cent. according to the tariff of 1842, I propose that a duty of 10 per cent. should be the *maximum*, and this duty will fall on manufactures, such as brocade, earthenware, and other articles of that kind, and on all manufactures of hair. At present there is a duty of 20 per cent. on the import of foreign carriages. ("Hear, hear," and laughter on the Opposition benches.) I consider the whole of these to be a series of equivalents. I am giving advantages to the consumer of this country by reductions of duty; and I will venture to say that there is no article so extravagantly dear as the carriage manufacture. (Ironical cheers.) Without referring to carriages manufactured in Brussels and elsewhere, compare the price of London carriages with those made in Edinburgh and other places. It is most extravagant; and with the command by our manufacturers of timber and metal I can see no reason why foreign carriages imported into this country should be subject to a duty of 20 per cent. I propose to encourage a competition with the manufacturers in this

country by permitting the importation of foreign carriages on the payment of a duty of 10 per cent.

There is another manufacture in respect to which I propose a considerable reduction of duty.—I propose to reduce the duty on candles. We have reduced the duty on wax and spermaceti, and this night I propose a reduction of the duty now levied on candles to one-half. (Hear, hear.)

I propose, also, that the duty on foreign soap should be reduced; that in the case of hard soap, which is now subject to a duty of 30s. per cwt., that duty should, on account of the Excise duty on soap in this country, be reduced to 20s. per cwt.; that in the case of soft soap, the duty should be reduced from 20s. to 14s. per cwt.; and that in the case of Naples soap the duty should be reduced from 56s. to 20s. per cwt.

There are many articles on which duty is now levied, and in respect to which I propose to remit the duty altogether. I propose, notwithstanding the great simplification in the tariff of 1842, to carry that simplification still further. There are, I think, not less than nearly 1100 articles remaining in that tariff, because it was thought convenient to have them in an alphabetical arrangement, for the Custom-house officers to see what articles were or were not duty free; but with respect to 500 articles that stand in the tariff there is no duty. Now I propose, with respect to many articles still remaining on the tariff, and subject to duty, that they should be admitted duty free; but I avoid entering into more detail at present with respect to these. There are some manufactures still remaining with which I must deal specially, because, on account of the present amount of duty, or the nature of the article, it might not be advisable to subject them to the general principle. In respect to those articles connected with the manufacture of leather we have made a great reduction of late. We have remitted the duty on raw hides, which are admitted duty free. We have remitted the duty on almost every article connected with the tanning process. There is scarcely one levied. I propose to remit the duty altogether on an article which partakes more of the character of a raw material than a manufactured—namely, dressed hides.

I propose, with a view of reducing the cost of an article of clothing which is important to the working classes of the community—viz., boots and shoes—to take off the duty on dressed hides. There will then not be one raw material which the manufacturer of leather cannot command without the payment of duty. Having done that, I propose to diminish the duty on foreign boots and shoes imported into this country. This reduction of duty on this article of clothing is an object of great importance to the comfort of the poor. I propose, therefore, to make the following reductions of duty:—On boot-fronts, from 3s. 6d. to 1s. 9d. per dozen pair; large fronts, from 5s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. per dozen pair; boots, from £1 8s. to 14s. per dozen pair; shoes, from 14s. to 7s.; women and children's shoes, in the same proportion. I propose to reduce the duty on hats; and I propose now to carry into effect a reduction which was postponed in 1842, and I am afraid not wisely postponed—I mean with regard to the duty on straw plaiting. I propose to reduce the duty on straw plaiting from 7s. 6d. to 5s. per pound, and on straw hats, from 8s. 6d. to 5s. per pound. When I propose the reduction of the duty on silk manufacture, I propose also to take off the duty on what I consider rather a raw than a manufactured article connected with the silk trade—I mean dyed thrown silk.

I think I am convincing the House that I am disposed to act freely and impartially in respect to the application of this principle of the reduction of protective duty. I believe I have exhausted every article which can be called an article of "manufacture," as the word is generally used. I have proposed the reduction of duty upon metals, all articles connected with clothing, and all articles of general use and consumption, and I have stated to the House what is the general principle I propose. (Hear, hear.)

I come now to another article of great importance, which, although a manufacture, yet, in common parlance, does not generally fall within that denomination; it is an article in respect of which I think the time is come for reduction altogether. I propose to reduce the duty upon brandy and foreign spirits. (Hear, hear.) The present duty upon brandy is not less than 22s. 10d. per gallon. That has prevented the increase of importation. At the present moment, I believe, the consumption of French brandy in this country is not greater than it was at the latter end of the seventeenth century, if, indeed, it be so great; and I think that is mainly attributable to the exorbitant amount of the duty, compared with the value of the raw material. Now brandy, like silk, is an article in respect to which the apparent protection is delusive; there is no article, unless it be silk, in respect of which, speaking of our intercourse with the Continent, smuggling so much prevails as it does in the article of foreign spirits. The diminution of duty, therefore, is no necessary diminution of protection to the native producer; it may tend to prevent smuggling, it may tend to convert an unlawful into a lawful traffic, but it is not necessarily the diminution of protection. I propose, then, that the present duty upon brandy, geneva, and foreign spirits generally, should be reduced from 22s. 10d. to 15s. (Hear, hear.)

There remains one article to which I will advert, in respect to which an arrangement was made only so recently as last year, but which I also intend to propose to the House to include in the reduction of protective duties; I allude to the article of sugar. (Loud cheers from the Opposition benches.) Each of these articles must be made the subject of prolonged discussion. It is impossible that I should enter into details; I can but submit to the House in outline the intentions of her Majesty's Government. (Hear, hear.) I am very much afraid the proposal I have to make may not at all meet the concurrence and approbation of those hon. members who cheered the mention of sugar; still I will state the proposal which her Majesty's Government have to make. (Hear, hear.) In the last year I estimated the probable amount of increased consumption of sugar in consequence of the reduction of duty at not less, I think, than 50,000 tons. In the remainder of the last year there had been an increase of consumption to the extent of not less than 32,000 tons; whether or no, during the remaining period, which would complete a twelvemonth, there will prove to be so much increase as to bear out my calculation, I cannot undertake to say; still, there cannot be a doubt that there will be a very considerable increase in the consumption of sugar. The amount of free-labour sugar brought into competition with British colonial sugar, however, has not increased. I calculated the amount of free-labour sugar at 250,000 tons; the amount actually brought into home consumption has fallen far short of that; I believe the defalcation may be accounted for chiefly by the failure of the crop in Cuba, and an increased consumption on the continent of Europe, with a consequent diversion of supplies which would have been brought to this country from parts of the world in which there is free labour. These will account in great measure for the diminished supply. Still, I am bound to say that I think the British colonial sugar can bear increased competition with sugar the produce of free labour. I am not prepared to make a relaxation with respect to the admission of sugar the produce of countries carrying on the slave-trade; I must still contend for that exclusion; but with respect to sugar, the produce of free labour, her Majesty's Government have not thought it right to exempt sugar from the general application of the principle for which I am contending. We propose, therefore, assuming that the competition is to be with sugar the produce of free labour to deduct 3s. 6d. from the amount of the present differential duty. In the case of Muscovado the amount of differential duty is, I think, 9s. 4d.; in the case of clayed sugar I think it is 11s. 8d.; we propose to deduct from the amount of differential duty in each case 3s. 6d., leaving the differential duty in favour of British colonial sugar, competing with sugar the produce of free labour, at 5s. 10d. in the one case, and at 8s. in the other. (Hear, hear.)

Now, in concluding this review of all the articles, or at least almost all the articles upon which import duties are levied, I come to those articles which are connected with agriculture. There are many articles of first-rate importance, on which there are very heavy duties, but on which those heavy duties do not operate as protecting duties. I take the article of tobacco. In making the extensive changes which, on the part of her Majesty's Government, I now propose, I do hope that the consideration of the public revenue will be permitted to have its due weight, and that, although the arguments may be most cogent in respect to the reduction of the duty on particular articles, yet the House will bear in mind the importance of not breaking down the public revenue. (Hear, hear.) The pressure upon the revenue on account of the reductions which I propose, must be very great; and considerations of the public interest, considerations of national defence, leave us no alternative but to propose an increase in the estimates; we must dismiss considerations of revenue where interests of such great importance are concerned; but the House will bear in mind, that I am proposing reductions in the Tariff, which will necessarily cause, for the present, a considerable defalcation of the revenue, and, on the other hand, that, in our opinion, it has become our duty to propose—not from any hostile considerations, but for the purpose of providing for the defences of the country—that increase in the estimates. I hope, then, that those who think there are duties, exorbitantly high, still retained upon some great articles of consumption, will not press for simultaneous reductions in all. (Hear, hear.) I will first refer to those articles of agricultural produce which are not immediately connected with the food of the people.

I take, in the first instance, the seeds of grasses and other seeds. I have a deep conviction that the reduction of duty upon agricultural seeds, so far from being the removal of protection upon agriculture, is conferring a benefit upon agriculture. (Hear, hear.) I take the article of cloverseed. Now, surely it would be impossible to maintain that the heavy duty which was some years since applied to cloverseed operated as a protection to agricultural produce. In many parts of the country the duty upon cloverseed was, in fact, a heavy burden. In 1843, if I recollect right, you levied a duty upon cloverseed to the amount of not less than £144,000. What a small portion of the agricultural districts of this country was benefited by the levy of that duty! Cloverseed was required in those parts of the country where agriculture is most advanced; cloverseed was required as conducive to the most improved system of agriculture. Some few counties in England were the producers of cloverseed, but, speaking generally, the duty levied upon cloverseed was not a protection, but a burden to agriculture. (Hear, hear.) With respect, then, to all agricultural seeds generally, not for the removal of protection, but as a benefit to agriculture, I propose to reduce the duty, and to apply to all a moderate duty. The duty on cloverseed was reduced one-half in 1842; at a previous period it had reached nearly £150,000 in one year; last year it was £75,000. As I have reduced the great mass of manufactures, generally speaking, to a uniform duty of 10 per cent., so, with respect to all seeds, for the purpose of simplifying the matter, I propose that the duty generally shall not exceed 5s. per cwt.; that that shall apply to cloverseed and to all seeds. In the case of leek and onion seed, the duty at present is not less than 20s. I propose with respect to all seeds, that the *maximum* duty shall be 5s. (Hear, hear.) I have already spoken of that most important department of agriculture, the fattening of cattle. I believe it is impossible to over-estimate the importance of promoting the fattening of cattle, as instrumental to an improved system of agriculture. The restoration of fertility to the soil by means of manure is one of the most beneficial of the dispensations of Providence; and I believe that there is no manure, bring it from where you will, which, in respect to its fertilising qualities, can enter into competition with that which has been derived from the soil. You cannot conduce more to the improvement of inferior soils than by encouraging the feeding and fattening of cattle, and thus promoting the application of the manure to the increase of the fertility of the land. I propose, therefore, that an article of grain, which I believe to be mainly applied to the fattening of cattle, shall be hereafter imported duty free: it is an article of immense importance—I mean maize, or Indian corn. (Hear, hear.) I propose that the duty upon maize shall hereafter and immediately be a nominal duty. (Hear, hear.) Now, I do not consider that by removing the duty on maize I am depriving agriculture of any protection. Maize is generally used in the United States, I believe, partly for human food; and I believe that, though it is very much disregarded in this country, on parts of the continent it is made into excellent food, and in parts of the United States it is even preferred to articles of food which we in this country use. I do believe, that the free importation of maize, so far from doing any disservice to agriculture, will, by promoting the feeding of cattle, be an advantage rather than a detriment. (Hear, hear.) I propose, also, that the article of buckwheat shall be subject to the same rule; that maize and buckwheat, and the flour of maize and buckwheat, shall be admitted duty free; I propose to admit the meal equally with the grain itself. (Hear, hear.) If any gentleman will ascertain the enormous sums which are now paid by many of the best farmers in the country for the purchase of linseed cake and rape cake, I think they will agree with me, that increased facilities for the introduction of articles that may be used for the fattening of cattle will be no disservice to the agricultural interest. The demand for linseed cake is so great that it is rising in price: the consumption on some farms is immense, and upon some, I believe, the chief object of the consumption is to provide manure for the better cultivation of the soil. I will just trouble the House by stating the prices.—

Price of Linseed Cake per 1000 in the month of

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
January, 1843	9	0	0
— 1844	10	0	0
— 1846	12	0	0

Price of Rape Cake per ton.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
January, 1843	5	5	0
— 1844	5	5	0
December, 1844	4	5	0
January, 1846	5	17	6

I hold in my hand a letter from a merchant, strongly recommending, on account of the great advantage to the agricultural interest, that there should be a free import of some articles which are used very generally in the United States for fattening cattle. He says:—"I take the liberty of submitting to your inspection a specimen of rice-feed, which is very extensively used in the United States for feeding cattle. We apprehend the act of 9 George IV. applies to this; we therefore submit to your consideration whether to the farmer a cheap supply would not be very desirable. It is the refuse of rice ground up, and is less costly than linseed cake." It seems that this material is at present excluded, on the ground that it comes under the description of meal; but I believe that the admission of it would enable us better to enter into competition with the foreign breeder, and would so far be an advantage to agriculture.

I come now to the consideration of those articles of agricultural produce which are immediately connected with the food of man. (Renewed murmurs.) On this great question, on which of course I anticipate much difference of opinion, I have to meet those, on the one hand, who contend for no delay and no qualification (cheers), and, on the other, those who insist that there shall be no relaxation of the present amount of protection. (Cheers.) My object will be, if possible, to make some adjustment of this question, in which both sides may concur. (Hear, hear.) I know that neither will approve of it. (Cheers and laughter.) I know, I say, that neither will approve of it. (Renewed cheers.) I know that I must meet the disapprobation, possibly the opposition, of those who usually sit on this side of the House. (Cheers from the Ministerial benches.) Probably I may have to encounter equal resistance from the honourable gentlemen opposite. (Cheers from the Opposition side.) But, on the part of her Majesty's Government, I beg to say that our desire is, without favour or undue partiality, to suggest that which we believe to be just, and calculated to terminate that conflict, the continuance of which all must lament. I trust to be able to remove those causes of jealousy and dissension between different classes of her Majesty's subjects, so as not injuriously to affect any one class, and yet to promote the general interest of all. (Cheers.) I consider it for the public advantage at least to lay the foundation of a final settlement. (Much cheering.) I am not about to propose the immediate repeal of the duties imposed upon grain, and what I shall propose will be an earnest of the principle on which we shall act.

I am induced to recommend the immediate reduction of duty on some articles of primary importance in contributing to the food of man. I will first state the articles with respect to which I propose that there shall be either reduction or repeal; as to all, I shall recommend an immediate reduction; but I will first advert to those on which I propose an immediate and total repeal. Speaking of articles of consumption, I propose an extensive review of the duties on all articles included in the tariff which enter into the consumption of the people. As I stated, I propose to make an immediate reduction upon the whole, though not the repeal of the whole. On the part of her Majesty's Government, I recommend that the duty should be immediately reduced to one-half: upon butter, from £1 to 10s.; cheese, from 10s. to 5s.; hops, from £4 10s. to £2 5s. The duty on cured fish I would reduce to 1s. per cwt. These are the articles of agricultural produce on which I propose the immediate repeal. I propose also the immediate repeal of the duty on all articles which constitute meat food. I propose that the repeal of the duty on bacon shall be absolute and immediate. On fresh beef, on salt beef, on salt pork, on fresh pork, on potatoes, and vegetables of all kinds, the duty shall be forthwith and immediately abolished. (Hear, hear.) Everything, then, which enters into the vegetable kingdom, and everything of animal food, shall be admitted at once duty free. (Cheers.) I believe that the agriculturist need fear no foreign competition in consequence of this; for, in dealing with him as with the manufacturer, I conceive that I have given to the agriculturist increased facilities in meeting competition, by removing the duty from oil-cake, rape-cake, and linseed-cake, with which he feeds his cattle. Then I propose, having reduced the duty on what may be considered the manufactured articles of food, at once to remove the duty on the importation of animals. I propose, with respect to all animals imported from foreign countries, as a general rule, that they should come in duty free. There is no necessity for retaining the duty on asses, still less on many other animals mentioned in the Tariff (a laugh); but, with respect to all animals, I propose, as a proof of our adherence to the principles which I have laid down—I propose that they, as well as meat, should be free from duty. (Hear, hear.) It has been represented to me, that it is not fair to levy an equal amount of duty on cattle fatted abroad and on lean animals imported from abroad; and it has been said that there would be an advantage to the agriculturist in getting

access to the lean animal, whilst there would be none in admitting the fatted animal—at any rate, my proposition will redress that inequality (hear, and a laugh); and I must say that I trust the increased means of fattening cattle which will be afforded, coupled with the great facility of getting lean cattle, and the ready means of converting them into valuable food for the people of this country, will be considered as some compensation for the removal of the duty from the fatted animal. (Hear.) I hope, also, that those connected with agriculture will bear in mind, whilst I am proposing these reductions, that I have already proposed the removal of protection from some of the great articles of manufacture (hear, hear)—that I have not directed their attention to the removal of protection from the landed interest only; but that I have called, as I always do call, on the manufacturer to set the first example of the relinquishment of protection. They will bear in mind that the farm-servant can command a cheaper supply of clothing than he could before, and I trust, therefore, that they will not be indisposed to follow the example of those whom I have called on first to relinquish their claims to protection. (Hear.)

Sir, I now will state, with the permission of the House, the proposal which I intend to make on the subject of the Corn-laws. (Sensation.) I have already said that I exempt some articles of grain from duty altogether. I have said that maize and buck-wheat will be admitted duty free. (Hear.) Now, on the one hand, though I do not propose the immediate repeal of the Corn-laws, I am yet in the hope of making a final adjustment of the question, whilst undue apprehension is prevented, and time is given for the adjustment of agriculture to the new state of circumstances. (Hear, hear.) Though I propose a temporary continuance of protection (hear, hear), I do propose that the bill shall contain a distinct enactment, that, after the lapse of a certain time, foreign grain shall be imported into this country duty free. (Loud cheers.) I am deeply convinced that any intermediate proposition would be of no avail. (Renewed cheers.) It would have been out of my power, as I explained to the House on a former occasion, to have suggested any modification of the existing Corn-law with a guarantee to have continued that modification. (Hear, hear.) That, I say, would have been out of my power. I feel that the choice is between the maintenance intact of the existing amount of protection in every branch, and the laying of the foundation for an ultimate settlement, by means of a total repeal of the Corn-law. (Cheers.) I propose, therefore, that there shall be a considerable reduction in the amount of protection on corn, and I propose that the continuance of the duty so reduced shall be limited to a period of three years. (Cheers.) This act, if it shall meet the sanction of this House, will contain a provision that at that period of the year when I believe there will be the least inconvenience for the termination of protection, viz.—on the 1st of February, 1849, oats, barley, and wheat shall be subjected only to that nominal rate of duty which I propose to apply now at once to maize and buck wheat. (Hear, hear.) The next point which we had to determine was as to what the intermediate state of the law should be during the continuance of protection. My opinion, I am bound to say, as to the policy of providing immediately for a great reduction of the duty on corn remains unchanged. (Hear, hear.) I cannot admit that I took an erroneous estimate—I regret that it is so—I wish I had—but I cannot admit, I say, that I have overstated the amount of pressure which, before the arrival of next harvest, may be felt in many parts of the country. I think, not only looking to the prospects of next spring, but looking to the consequences of a deficiency of food, that it is of the greatest importance to take precautions, as far as the Legislature can take precautions, against the evil day. (Hear, hear.) It is possible that the results of that deficiency may be more extensive and permanent than we think for. I am sure I wish it were possible to take advantage of this calamity in one view, and to extract benefit from it, by introducing amongst the people of Ireland a desire for better food than potatoes afford (cheers), and thus to diminish the chance, to which they will possibly be liable, of a recurrence of this great visitation by which the food of millions of our fellow subjects is rendered uncertain. (Hear, hear.) We have yet to consider what provision is to be made for them—what substitute is to be provided for all the unsound potatoes which, had they been sound, would have formed the food of a majority of the people of Ireland. It is impossible to provide an immediate substitute which would prove satisfactory. You may think that the potato is a most insufficient article of subsistence; but you can't, in two or three years to come, do what you will, dispense with the reliance on potatoes. In such a position, the most provident arrangement which can be come to must be suggested.

I am not about to propose now what I proposed on the 1st November, the immediate suspension of the duty on wheat by an Order in Council; but I think it is of importance to make such reductions in the present amount of duties, as shall realise a great part of the advantage which might have been derived from opening the ports. I wish to have but one law enduring for the limited period to which I have referred, but I wish in that law to take every necessary precaution against impending danger. (Hear.) I propose, therefore, that there shall be for the present, and immediately, a great reduction in the duty on wheat, and that that amount so reduced shall endure only for a limited period—there being a guarantee, by express enactment in the bill, that on the arrival of that period, the then existing duty shall be converted into a mere nominal duty. What, then, shall be the nature of the law which is to endure for a limited period? My colleagues and myself have approached this question wholly unprejudiced, and with no other object in view than the general advancement and prosperity of the country. Our desire has been to propose a law, temporary in its relations, which appears to us, on the whole, best suited to meet the exigencies of the present case, and best calculated to provide for the wants of the country during the period for which it is intended. The rate of duty under the existing law, on other descriptions of grain, has been regulated by the rate of duty on wheat. We propose, therefore, that the rates of duty on barley, oats, peas, beans, and rye, shall be governed, as nearly as possible, during the continuance of this law, if it meet with the sanction of Parliament, by the principles which will apply to wheat; that is, that there shall be a reduction of a corresponding amount applied to all. But I propose that immediately from the passing of this act, all grain, the produce of British colonial possessions, out of bond, shall be admitted at a nominal duty. (Hear, hear.) I propose that in all cases those restrictions which apply to meal, the produce of grain, shall be removed. I presume that they were established for the protection of the milling interest of this country—I believe them, however, to be wholly unnecessary. They are not applied to flour, the produce of wheat; I see no reason why they should be applied to meal, the produce of barley or any other grain. (Hear, hear.) Now, on the one hand, I offer to those who insist on the immediate and unqualified removal of those laws, the unrestricted importation—at least the importation at a nominal duty—of all kinds of grain, and all kinds of meal, the produce of British colonial possessions, out of bond. One great article, also, the produce of the United States—the article of maize—to the free produce of which the United States attaches the utmost importance, we propose should be admitted duty free, and at once. I now come to the provisions with respect to other descriptions of grain, which we propose to adopt during the period whilst foreign grain is to be subjected to duty. We have attempted to meet some of the objections which have been made to varying the rate of duty; at the same time to have fixed any duty which would have been considered valuable in the shape of protection, would have answered the purpose which we desired to attain—of making an immediate reduction in the price of foreign grain, on account of the temporary exigencies of the country. (Hear, hear.) We propose, therefore, that the enactment to endure for three years shall be to this effect:—“That until the 1st day of February, 1849, the following duties shall be levied on wheat if imported from any foreign country:—Whenever the average price of wheat, made up and published in the manner required by law, shall be for every quarter under

48s. the duty shall be	..	..	10s.
over 48s. and under 49s.	..	..	9s.
49s. .. 50s.	..	..	8s.
50s. .. 51s.	..	..	7s.
51s. .. 52s.	..	..	6s.
52s. .. 53s.	..	..	5s.

and that whenever the price of grain made up and published in the manner required by law shall exceed 53s., there shall then be an invariable duty of 4s. per quarter.” That is to say, that there shall be no temptation to hold grain when the price shall exceed 54s. for the purpose of securing the shilling of extra duty. (Hear, hear.) The enactments which we shall propose with respect to all other descriptions of grain will precisely follow the scale which we have adopted with regard to wheat. It would, however, perhaps be more convenient for the House, considering the time I have already occupied, that I should rather defer them to the details which will be printed to-morrow morning, than go through the whole now as regards oats and barley. (Hear, hear.) It may be sufficient for the present purpose to state that the same general rule will be adopted in all. (Hear, hear.) There would now, therefore, be levied on wheat, instead of a duty of 16s., one of 4s.; and every other grain at the present prices taken out of bond for consumption in the home market, would be subject to a merely nominal duty. (Hear, hear.) That is the ar-

range for the adjustment of this great question which her Majesty's Government are induced to offer for the consideration of Parliament. We propose to accompany that arrangement with other provisions calculated—I will not say to give compensation—but calculated, in my firm belief, materially to advance the interests of that portion of the community which, after the lapse of three years, will be called on to relinquish their protection. I believe it is possible to suggest arrangements not affecting the interests of other portions of the community, yet materially benefitting theirs, by introducing reforms in the levying of duties, and in the application of the burdens which are to be raised. I thank them for having permitted me, without interruption, to state all those portions of my proposal which might appear to be bearing heavily on them. I am obliged to them for the forbearance with which they have permitted me to go through that part of my proposed measure. (Hear, hear.) I will now state what are the measures with which we propose to accompany this great present reduction, and the ultimate extinction of protection—measures which, I believe, will prove greatly to the advantage of that interest in whose welfare this country is deeply interested. (Hear, hear.) Let us review some of the burdens which do fall immediately on the land; but burdens which are, in my opinion—some of them, at least—capable of alleviation, not by their transfer to other parties, but by the introduction of reforms into the mode of their levy. Now, first let me take the existing arrangement with respect to one great source of expenditure—to one great burden which is constantly and justly complained of by the agriculturists—I mean the amount of rate which is levied for highways. (Hear, hear.) Is it not quite possible, without subjecting other parties to the expense of maintaining the highways, to introduce reforms into the mode of raising the highway rate which might be advantageous to the agriculturists? I believe it is possible. (Hear, hear.) What is the law at present with respect to highways? There are at least 16,000 local authorities, each of which has charge of the highways. As railways advance, whilst turnpike roads are, in many cases, becoming of little importance, highways, which have hitherto been of little advantage to the public, are becoming of increased importance. But where a highway is a continuous channel of communication passing through different parishes, that same highway is under the control of every parish through which it passes, and, as I have before said, the total number of parish authorities is not less than 16,000. The practice for keeping up the repair of the roads is to have a nominal appointment of a paid surveyor in each parish, who absolutely knows nothing whatever of the construction of roads (hear, hear, hear); or even if they did—if they had double the ability which they do possess, the existence of different surveyors on one highway is necessarily a defective arrangement. That each portion of the highway should be subject to a parochial authority, distinct from the other portions in other parishes, and that the highway should be thus subjected to numerous local authorities, must evidently tend to increased outlay, to great abuse, and generally to a laxity of expenditure, and a bad system of repair, which it is desirable should be avoided in future. (Hear, hear.) There is at present in existence an act of Parliament which permits the voluntary union of parishes into local districts, for the purpose of the more effectual superintendence and repair of the roads; but as the union of the parishes for that purpose is required under the act to be voluntary, there is hardly any instance in which that union has taken place, in which the voluntary power of forming such a district has been exercised. What I propose is this—and in proposing, I do not bring it forward as a relief to agriculture from any burden, but as a means of benefitting the agricultural interests, by greatly improving the communication by highways throughout the country. (Hear, hear.) I propose, therefore, that what is now a power of voluntary union on the part of the parishes should be made compulsory. (Cheers.) If we adopt the same extent of district for those local unions as that which is selected for the poor-law unions, it will give six hundred local authorities throughout the country; and I propose to compel the parishes in those districts to form such unions, for the purpose of the superintendence and repair of the roads. (Hear, hear.) I also propose that each union, when so formed, should have the power of appointing a surveyor of the roads for that particular district; the surveyor so appointed to be a properly-qualified professional man, who is to have the entire charge of the roads in his district. Some cases of the voluntary union of parishes do exist at present, as I have before stated; and I wish to remind the House, before I proceed further, of the effects which have been produced by the adoption of these unions, and the substitution, for a parochial management, of a central management under the direction of a surveyor. (Hear, hear.) I hold in my hand a return relating to a district in the north, in which parochial management has been superseded, and a district of seventy miles in extent formed for the purpose of carrying into effect a better mode than that which prevailed under parochial management, of repairing and superintending the roads under the direction of a county surveyor. The result of the improved system of central management is thus described:—

[Here the right hon. Baronet read a return from the parishes within the district of seventy miles, from which it appeared that under the old system the cost of repairing and surveying the roads was from 6d. to 9d. in the pound, whilst the money, at the same time, was thrown away; whereas, under the centralized system, this expense was no more than from 1½d. to 3d. in the pound, and the work done in the best manner. In nine adjoining parishes, which had not adopted the system of voluntary union, the expense of repairing, &c., was from 4½d. to 5d. in the pound.] That is not a transfer of any burden, whilst it will go a great way in improving the channels of communication, and thus so far tend to the benefit of the agricultural interest, and relieve them, to a certain extent, of a burden which they bear. That is, therefore, one system by which I propose to relieve the agricultural interest, and it can be effected without transferring it to others, but by a better arrangement of our existing institutions. I will now direct the attention of the House to a law which has been greatly complained of by the agricultural interest—I mean the present Law of Settlement. (Hear, hear, from the agricultural representatives.) It happens, under the present Law of Settlement, that a large portion of the population of rural districts are induced, in times of great manufacturing prosperity, to move into the manufacturing districts, and it happens frequently, that the power, the labour, and the best part of a man's life, who so removes, are consumed in that manufacturing district, and thus all the advantage of his strength and good conduct, and industry, are derived by the manufacturing district during the period of his residence. (Hear, hear.) A revulsion then comes in trade—the manufacturing districts are not prosperous, and what course is taken with respect to the man who moved in more prosperous times from the rural to the manufacturing districts? The man, with his wife and family, is sent back to the rural districts (hear, hear); and the individual who spent the best part of his life as a manufacturing operative, and who, perhaps, was not very provident during the time of his best labour, is returned to the rural district from which he originally came—returned unfit for an agricultural occupation. (Hear, hear.) Under these circumstances the man is sent, against his will, to a new home, at a period when all his communications with that district have been interrupted and with no means of earning an honest livelihood, a proceeding which must shock the feelings of every man who witnesses it. (Hear, hear.) In proposing an alteration of the system under which these circumstances take place, I am not merely doing an act of justice, but also preventing an act of injustice to the labouring man. The proposal is not therefore merely that an industrial residence of five years should give a settlement, but that the power of removeability should be taken away in the case of that man. (Loud cheers.) We propose that after an industrial residence of five years, after a man has laboured for a period of five years in a district, his settlement shall not be in the place where he had originally a settlement, but in the district to which his industry and labour had been given during those five years. (Cheers.) The House may recollect what passed in 1842. In 1842 great distress prevailed in the manufacturing districts, and the practice adopted in consequence of this distress was, that the men who had originally a settlement in agricultural districts were returned to them, after having laboured in the manufacturing districts. Now I conceive that what we propose is a great moral improvement in the law of settlement (hear, hear, and cheers), and an improvement which will prove a just relief to the rural districts, but the great advantage of which will be the avoidance of an act of injustice to the labouring man. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) I propose, on the part of the Government, that from the passing of the measure which we shall introduce with reference to this subject, no person who has resided five years in a parish shall be removed from that parish, and no residence in a prison, or a barracks, or a military asylum, or an hospital in that parish, or no period during which the individual was receiving public relief, shall be reckoned in those five years, or, on the other hand, be an interruption. (Hear, hear.) I propose that there shall not only be no power to remove that man, but that there shall be no power to remove his wife or his children, legitimate or illegitimate, under sixteen years of age—that those children shall be permitted to reside with the father and mother, for there is to be no power to remove them when the removal of the man himself is prevented. There is to be no separation of the children from the parent in this case (great cheering), or of the man so situated from his family. (Cheers.) The man

who labours for five years in a district of which he is not a native, is thus not to be sent to the place of his original settlement. Under the present system, immediately on the death of a labouring man in a manufacturing district, of which he happens not to be a native, his widow can be removed to the parish in which she had her settlement; but we propose that no widow can be removable, for twelve months after the death of her husband, from the parish in which he resided at the time of his death. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) At present, when a man situated as the individual I have described begins to fall in a manufacturing district—perhaps, from having undergone extreme labour—and apprehension begins to be entertained that he may become a permanent incumbrance on the parish, and means are accordingly taken for an early removal of that man to his original settlement; now, I propose that he shall not be removable, after five years' labour, on the ground of sickness or accident; that no such ground as sickness, or accident shall be alleged as the cause of the removal of such a man or his family from a manufacturing to an agricultural district. (Hear, hear.) This alteration in the Law of Settlement which I propose, will be found to be a great social advantage, whilst it will relieve the agricultural interest of a burden which at present it is subject to. In proposing this alteration, I am doing only what is just to the place of the man's original settlement, and preventing an injustice from being done to the man who, for a long period, employed his labour in a manufacturing district. (Hear, hear.) The next measure which I am prepared, on the part of her Majesty's Government, to advise, is one that, without loss to any party in the community, will confer great advantage on others. There is a dread—a natural dread—of competition with our agriculture, on the cessation of the present Corn-law; and, I must add, it is impossible to deny that agricultural science is as yet in its infancy in this country, and that opportunities are afforded for effecting immense improvements in that department, and thus affording the means of meeting competition. (Hear, hear.) There are opportunities of enabling the British farmer, by the skill, capital, and industry of this country, to meet any competition which might be entered into by other countries. (Cheers.) Now, we recommend that the State should encourage improvements in agricultural science, and we propose that, for this purpose, the State should give facilities for carrying on such improvements in agriculture. Look at the Committee of last year, at which the Duke of Richmond presided; look at the evidence before that Committee with respect to the improvement of estates: that evidence shows that great opportunities of improvement exist where the means were afforded, and that large and extensive districts of the country are in a state to afford a wide and profitable field for the application of those improvements. I believe that those facilities exist—I believe that draining would greatly increase the produce of this country. (Hear, hear.) Difficulties are no doubt to be met, and those difficulties are alluded to in the report of the Committee which I have just mentioned; but there have been also proposed various schemes for effecting the necessary improvements in agriculture, and amongst them are some which have been brought forward by my hon. friend the member for Berkshire. Amongst the principal difficulties to be encountered was the necessary intervention of the Court of Chancery in many cases, and the difficulty of raising sufficient sums of money, and obtaining satisfactory security for its repayment, as well as the interest, in case of failure. Now, we recommend that the public credit of the State should be lent for the purpose of encouraging improvements, but we intend that it shall be done in a manner which will not subject the public to any loss, whilst money can be thus afforded on certain terms which will name for the purpose of affording every facility for agricultural improvement. I see a great deal of advantage likely to arise from that recommendation, and I will now lay before the House the manner in which we propose to effect it. At present, we advance Exchequer-bill loans on sufficient security; now I would advise the application of the public credit to the encouragement of agriculture in such a manner as perfectly to guard the public against any loss. We propose that the Exchequer-bill Commissioners should lend a sufficient sum of money to effect agricultural improvements, on due securities, and we will take advantage of another Board, already in existence—the Board of Enclosures—for the purpose of facilitating those improvements. We recommend that a landed proprietor, wishing to effect improvements, should make an application to the Enclosure Commissioners, to inquire into the nature and extent of the improvements proposed, and we recommend that the preliminary survey should be made at the expense of the proprietor so applying, in order to prevent all frivolous applications. After a full investigation on the part of the Enclosure Commissioners, a certificate is to be issued by those Commissioners, warranting the Exchequer-bill Loan Commissioners to advance a certain sum, such as may be required for the improvement so approved, providing by the terms of the advance an annual payment of a moderate rate of interest, and a repayment of the principal by annual instalments, the rent charge thus created to be taken as prior to all other charges, except any other party having a prior claim to the land should object to it. I believe, however, that there will be few cases in which an objection will be made by such a party to the effecting of the improvement on the terms which I have described, as those improvements would be the best guarantee for new charges on the estate. We propose that parties who have a prior claim on the land shall only be prior to the rent charge thus created, and that in case they shall object to the advance, it may not be done without the consent of the Court of Chancery. We believe that we shall thus be enabled to remove the objection which at present applies with respect to the difficulty that exists as regards improvements of entailed estates, and that we shall be enabled to obviate the great expense attending appeals to the Court of Chancery in such cases, thus removing the difficulties which now prevent advances on the part of private companies, and that thus great advantages will be conferred. I believe that a spirit of improvement will take place, and that the landlords, under scientific direction, will be enabled to improve their estates, and that the stimulation and emulation thus excited will lead to a general spirit of agricultural improvement. (Hear, hear.) Well, that's another mode by which we propose to enable the landed interest to meet the competition to which they will be exposed at the termination of the present Corn-laws. With respect to direct local burdens, her Majesty's Government have devoted serious considerations to that subject, and I must say that I cannot advise any material alteration of the present system of assessment. There is now raised an immense sum of money by this assessment, which is partly applied to the sustenance and relief of the poor, and partly for other objects. It is said, and said with apparent justice, that this charge bears on the agricultural interest, that it ought to be relaxed, and the manner of levying it altered. Now, in point of fact, it is not a charge on the land; the opposition is not between the country and the manufacturing districts—not between land and houses—but between real and personal property (hear, hear, hear); for whether real property is in houses or manufactures, where industry is employed it is subjected to the assessment for poor rates. If this were a general charge—if the Government undertook the general support of the poor, it might be advantageous to make personal property subject to the support of the poor. But this assessment to which I refer—this charge for the support of the poor—is a local charge and not a general one. (Hear, hear, hear.) The land would have no advantage if the personal property of Manchester were all made to contribute to the poor rates. It would be no advantage to the land of the north of England, if the inhabitants of Halifax, Stockport, and Macclesfield were rated in this manner, for this charge. You may say, subject personal as well as real property to the assessment. If you do this, you must subject it to the assessment in the rural as well as in the manufacturing districts. If you did so, how, I ask, would you levy so small a charge upon personal property as this would be in many cases? It might be possible to do so with great sums, and on urgent occasions; but when you come to levy minute sums for the relief of the poor on personal property in rural districts you would find that the attempt would not be so successful. (Hear, hear.) To raise minute sums by any inquisition on the part of local authorities would prove a great burden on land in the rural districts. (Hear.) There are districts partly agricultural and partly manufacturing, and there you may say this mode of assessment is unjust; but whether or no, I am not prepared to suggest such a remedy as this inquisition into personal property for the purpose of assessment. I do not think that it would be an advantage to the land that there should be an inquisition by local authorities, in order to levy this tax on personal property. If an inquiry were made into the profits of trade for the purpose of this assessment, an inquiry should take place into the profits of the farmer. You had an inquiry into personal property before, under another act, but you abandoned it because you found it impossible. If you established it in this case, I see no advantage that would arise to the agricultural interest, and I am sure that if the State took upon itself the maintenance of the poor, it would be an arrangement open to the greatest objections, and as the charge is at present not a general but a local one, I do not believe that the landed interest would be benefitted by this assessment of personal property for the poor rates. I have not, therefore, proposed any material alteration as to the principle on which the rates are at present levied. I always thought that the agricultural interest had a fair claim to direct relief from some local burdens, and, looking at those which affect the land,

exclusively, we propose to take some of them off. I cannot mention this as a direct compensation, but I believe it will be found to lay the foundation of great social improvement if the public take upon them some of these charges. The honourable member for Somersetshire brought some of those burdens under the consideration of the House last year. I then said that while we retained protection I would not advise the agricultural interest to seek the relief then sought, as that relief would be comparatively small. But when we remove protection from the agricultural interest, I think it is in our power to relieve the land to a certain extent and effect further social improvement. You have already taken upon yourselves half the expense of maintaining prisoners while in gaol before trial, and also half the expense of lunatic asylums. You already bear a portion of the charge of maintaining convicts while in prison, and of removing convicts under sentence of transportation. We propose to relieve the country from these expenses altogether, and to throw the charge entirely upon the Consolidated Fund. When I say the Consolidated Fund, I do not mean to say that these expenses shall be paid without inquiry, and therefore I propose, in order that there may be a constant and vigilant check upon the expenditure of the country, that the necessary amount shall be provided for by an annual vote. With respect to the expenses of prosecutions in England, one-half of that charge is already paid out of the public purse, the other half by the county in which the prosecution takes place. In Scotland the charge is paid altogether by the country. In Ireland a portion of the charge still remains imposed upon the land. We propose that in the case of England and Ireland that portion of the expenses of prosecutions which is now defrayed by the county out of the local rates shall be borne by the country at large. The relief will not be great, but it will at the same time afford you the means of establishing some control over prosecutions (hear, hear), and thus, in a social point of view, the country will be amply repaid for the addition thereby made to the public burdens. In Scotland, an admirable system of checking prosecutions, by means of a public prosecutor, has for some time existed. (Hear, hear.) In Ireland, you have a control of the same kind, by requiring that in all prosecutions there shall be the consent of a public officer before the prosecution can be instituted. With a view, therefore, partly to the relief which the land will receive, and partly to the means of supervision which will be thereby afforded, I propose that the whole charge of prosecutions shall be taken from the land and placed upon the Consolidated Fund. The expense which this will occasion will be £17,000 for Ireland; but, in England, it will not be less than £100,000. When I speak of Ireland, let it not be forgotten, that, if there be any part of the United Kingdom which will suffer from the withdrawal of protection to agriculture, that part of the United Kingdom will be a loser by the course which we have recommended. Its capital and its enterprise are almost exclusively directed to agricultural pursuits. If, therefore, there should appear at first any undue favour shown to Ireland, let it be borne in mind that Ireland has not the means which other parts of the United Kingdom possess of employing labour in manufactures. It must also be recollected at the same time that we propose no relief from burdens which is not accompanied with some great social benefit to the whole of the community. At present there is a large police force established in Ireland. The expense of maintaining that force falls partly on the county, and partly on the public at large. This seems to me, I confess, an anomalous system. (Hear, hear, hear.) I think that it would be a great advantage to place that force under the control of the Executive Government, and to make it as perfect a system as you can, excluding all power of local nomination and local interference. This course was strongly recommended by the commission over which Lord Devon presided, without any reference to the withdrawal of protection from agriculture, and, therefore, her Majesty's Government are disposed to recommend that the charge of maintaining the police force in Ireland shall be wholly borne by the public treasury. There is another charge borne by the land in this country, which, with a view to the social advantages which will result from the change, we propose to transfer to the Consolidated Fund. I allude to medical relief. There is no part of the administration of the Poor-laws which gives more dissatisfaction than the administration of medical relief. (Hear, hear.) There has been often great unwillingness on the part of the guardians to provide proper means for visiting and relieving the sick poor, and I am sorry to say, there have been frequently just grounds of complaint with respect to medical attendance. The state of medical relief in Scotland, also, has frequently attracted the attention of the House during the last Session of Parliament. For the sake, therefore, of gradually introducing an amended system of medical relief to the poor, we propose that the public shall pay half the charge of medical officers. I estimate that the amount of relief which the land will receive by this plan will, in England, amount to not less than £100,000, and will amount to about £15,000 in Scotland. Ireland stands in a different position in this respect, and the circumstances in which it is placed will shortly occupy the attention of the other House of Parliament. There is a separate charge which falls on the land in Scotland, from which, I think, it is entitled to be relieved. The charge of the Model Prison at Pentonville is borne by the country generally, and Scotland objects that the expense of maintaining the prison at Perth ought not to fall upon her exclusively. It is but a very small amount, but Scotland wishes to be relieved from it, more, perhaps, as a matter of feeling, than on account of the burden which it casts upon the people of that country, who see the Prison at Pentonville and the establishment at Parkhurst, in the Isle of Wight, supported at the public expense. There is only one other item of expenditure which I propose to take off from the land, but on which, I think, I shall have the general acquiescence of the House. I believe that, in many parish workhouses, there is great ground of complaint, on account of the inadequate provision made for education. In many workhouses, persons who are perfectly unfit to be trusted with the education of youth, have been appointed schoolmasters. We propose not to interfere with the right of the guardians to appoint these persons, as we do not wish to raise any question about their religious tenets. The right of appointment, therefore, shall remain with the guardians, but the Government will be ready to bear the expense. We shall require the right of examination, of inspection, and of dismissal; but we are ready to provide a competent and decent salary for those who are to perform the task of instruction. We propose that a sum of £30,000 a year shall be devoted to the purpose of providing competent salaries for schoolmasters and schoolmistresses for the children of the destitute poor, taking at the same time upon ourselves so much of control as shall not amount to interference with the right of election, but requiring that the person appointed shall be competent to discharge the duties of the situation. I propose also that the salaries of auditors of Poor-law Unions shall be paid out of the public treasury, upon the same ground as those upon which the Poor-law Commissioners are paid from the same source. If this general scheme shall meet with the approbation of the House, observe what it does for the great body of people in this country. At a very early period all legislative restrictions on food will be entirely removed. Many of those restrictions will be removed immediately. With regard to clothing, the purchaser may at once go into the cheapest market. A great improvement will be introduced in respect to medical attendance. Before this measure be rejected, I do hope that both parties in this House, though their immediate views may not be consulted, will consider that, in respect to many articles of food there will be an immediate removal of restrictions, and that, with respect to all, there will be a free importation at an early period. I trust, however, that the whole measure may be fairly and temperately considered, and that, on each side, you will reflect on the consequences of an immediate rejection of this scheme. I ask for no expression of opinion upon it this evening. I hope that, after an interval of some days, we shall approach the consideration of the final result in the same temper of mind in which, on both sides of the House, you have listened to my explanation of the views of the Government. (Hear, hear.) Now, let me conclude with two observations, one connected with our foreign policy and the interests of our commercial intercourse with other countries, the other having reference to our own domestic prosperity. I fairly avow to you, that, in making this great reduction on the imports of articles which are the produce of other countries, I have no guarantee that other countries will follow our example. (Hear, hear.) I give you the advantage of the admission that her Majesty's Government, with all long-continued efforts to make other countries give us a fair equivalent, have determined to pursue their own course, and that we, on the behalf of this country, have resolved to consult our own interest, and not to punish both other countries and ourselves by encouraging high duties, and with high duties a contraband trade. (Cheers.) We have had no communication with any other Government on this subject. I cannot promise you that France will give us an equivalent for the reductions made on articles which are the produce of that country; nor that Russia will evince her gratitude for the policy of reducing the duty on tallow; you may therefore say to me, "You are giving away all these duties, and you get nothing in return." I may be told, and with truth, that many foreign countries, which have benefited by the reductions which we have already made, have not followed our example, but have actually applied to British goods higher rates of duty than were imposed upon them

before. (Hear, hear.) I give you the whole benefit of that argument. I rely on that fact as a conclusive proof of the policy of the course which we have pursued. It is undoubtedly the fact that they have not followed our example. But look at the state of our export trade. You have defied the regulations of other countries, and your foreign trade has greatly increased. This is owing partly, perhaps, to the smuggler, whose daring and ingenuity have penetrated the triple cordon which was established to exclude your manufactures; and partly, perhaps, to the circumstance that the inhabitants of the countries to which I refer have not the advantages which enable you to enter into competition with them. But your exports, whatever the tariffs of other countries may be, are a clear indication that the trade of this country with foreign countries is increasing. You have defied your competitors in the market, and, notwithstanding hostile tariffs, the declared value of the exports of this country has increased to the extent of £10,000,000 during the period since the reductions in our tariff have been made. I say, therefore, that you may depend upon it, that the example which you have set will ultimately be followed. When your example could be quoted in favour of restrictions upon commerce, it was quoted and acted upon, and, you may rely upon it, that when your example can be quoted in favour of relaxation of restriction, it will not be without its effect. It may not act at first upon foreign Governments or Boards of Trade, but ultimately the true interests of commerce will prevail, and, in spite of the desire of foreign Governments and Boards of Trade to raise revenue, the voice of reason will at last be heard. I see some symptoms already of an adherence to the principles by which we have been guided. Look at the Report of the Secretary to the Treasury of the United States, Mr. Walker. That shows that your example has not been unavailing. The Report made by him, containing many enlarged views on the subject of commerce, speaks thus, on the question of foreign trade:—"By countervailing restrictions, we injure our own fellow-citizens much more than the foreign nation at whom we purpose to aim their force, and in the conflict of opposing tariffs we sacrifice our own commerce, agriculture, and navigation. As well might we impose monarchical or aristocratical restrictions on our Government or people, because that is the course of foreign legislation. Let our commerce be as free as our political institutions. Let us, with revenue duties only open our ports to all the world, and nation after nation will soon follow our example." He says also, "If the question is asked, who shall begin the work of reciprocal reduction?—it is answered by the fact that England has already abated her duties upon most of our exports. She has repealed the duty upon most of our exports. She has repealed the duty upon cotton, and greatly reduced the tariff upon the breadstuffs, provisions, and other articles; and her present bad harvest, accompanied by a reduction of our tariff, would lead to the repeal of her Corn-laws, and the unrestricted admission at all times of our agricultural products." Here is a direct homage to the course which you have already pursued. Here is an admission that without any preliminary stipulation you reduced the duty on cotton, and the United States has now admitted that the time is come when she must follow your example. In other parts of Europe, where the form of Government is totally different from that of the United States, I could give you proof that your example is producing a considerable effect. I could quote the instance of a state, as different from the United States as can be, where your commercial principles are growing into favour. In Naples, liberal views on commercial subjects are beginning to prevail. (Hear, hear.) I must say, in justice to the Sovereign who now rules over that country, and who takes a personal part in the administration of that branch of affairs, that I have seen documents on commercial subjects from his pen, in which the principles of commercial intercourse are enunciated with as much correctness as if he had been a professor of political economy. That Sovereign is constantly urging upon his Ministers the relaxation of duties; and I am convinced that at an early period we may look for a reduction of the duties levied upon articles of our manufacture. I see reason to think that the same course will, at no remote period, be followed both in Sweden and Norway. Austria has shown some disposition, at least, not to follow the example set her by neighbouring countries; and Hanover, also, has taken her own course in commercial legislation. I do not despair, therefore, that the time will arrive when your example will act upon other countries. I trust that the improved intercourse which will ensue from it will constitute a new bond of peace. I do hope that the lovers and friends of peace between all nations will derive material strength from the example which I advise to be followed, by the removal of impediments to commercial intercourse. But observe, that the continuance of peace will expose us to greater competition. The greater the certainty of the continuance of peace, the greater will be the efforts which you must make to maintain your commercial position. During the last war we commanded the means of supplying every nation; but peace has produced not only new consumers, but also formidable manufacturing rivals. It is, therefore, of great importance to us to maintain the position to which we have reached. Now, I do firmly think that the abundance and cheapness of provisions is one of the constituents by which the continuance of commercial pre-eminence may be maintained. You may say that the object of these alterations is to foster the love of gain, and to minister to the desire of accumulating money. I advise these measures on no such grounds. I believe that the accumulation of wealth, that is to say, the increase of capital, is a main element, is one of the means, by which we can maintain the pre-eminence position which we have long held. But I have attempted to show that the abundance of provisions and the security—which is a main guarantee for the continuance of that abundance—not only contribute to the accumulation of wealth, but that they are directly conducive to the alleviation of public burdens by the increase of revenue—to the alleviation of local burdens by diminishing the pressure of local claims; but, above all, that they are conducive to the spread of morality, by diminishing those temptations to crime which arise from poverty and distress. (Hear, hear.)

I ask you, therefore, to give your consent to these measures, not on any narrow view, or principle connected with the accumulation of wealth; but I ask you to give your consent to them on far higher grounds—far higher principles. Encumbered as you are by heavy burdens, solicitous as you are to provide for the public credit, depend upon it the true source of increased revenue is increased comfort and increased taste for luxury. Thus, I say, are the interests of the revenue promoted by that unseen and voluntary taxation which arises from the enlarged consumption of articles of general use. I ask you to consent to the scheme you have just heard, on the proof which I have adduced, that abundance and cheapness lead to diminished crime and to increased morality. (Loud cheers.) Of what are the usual, nay, the almost necessary effects of that cheapness and that abundance, I could bring before you many examples. "But why," I hear it asked, "if there be no actual scarcity, and no danger of scarcity, why interfere?" (Conservative cheers.) Now what is scarcity? It is a relative term. (Hear, hear, from the Opposition.) That which is not scarcity to us may be scarcity to others. But scarcity is a relative term in respect to times as well as persons. Remember this, that the lapse of three years of plenty brings us to an important era in a nation's history. The late abundance of provisions, and consequent comparative cheapness, have altered the character and the feelings of the people. (Hear, hear.) That which was not scarcity in the hard winter of 1842 would be scarcity now (hear, hear); that which would not have been then a denial of comforts almost equal to the necessities of life would be severely felt now. (Hear, hear.) There would be much more real suffering sustained in 1846, after the enjoyment of three years of comparative abundance, by the people now being put upon anything like a short allowance of food, than there would have been under similar circumstances in 1843. Now, I advise that we do not check the genial current of prosperity which has so long prevailed. (Hear, hear.) We have had three abundant harvests. Now, do not mistake me. I am not insensible to the advantages of plenty arising from the abundance of home produce, which the bounty of Providence may favour us with. I do not say that any importation of corn from foreign countries can supply or compensate for the advantages we derive from abundant harvests of our own. But I ask you to consider whether or not such a consideration forms a reason why, if there be danger of a deficient supply at home, we should not remedy the evil as well as we can, by permitting importation from abroad? (Cheers.) I was told the other day that, in the instance of a battalion of the Guards, quartered here, a great increase in the number of applications for the furlough granted to private soldiers had taken place within the last three years. I inquired what was the reason. The House may think the anecdote trifling, but I confess it made a great impression upon my mind. I was told, I say, that the reason for the rapid increase in the number of applications for furlough—in fact, for twice the number of soldiers applying in 1845 for the privilege than had sought for it in previous years—and the number of applicants is still on the increase—I was told, I say, Sir, that the reason was this—that the friends of these soldiers were at present in such comfortable circumstances, that the men were constantly receiving invitations to pass some time in the country, and it was in this way the increase was to be accounted for. (Hear, hear, and some laughter.) Sir, honourable members may think the matter trifling, but it seems to me a striking instance of the moral advantages

produced by the command of an abundant supply of food. We see abundance here facilitating the intercourse of kindly affection. We see it permitting those who are divided in periods of difficulty and distress—permitting the soldier to revisit his home, and then to return, I hope imbued with feelings which would qualify him for the still better performance of his duty than those with which he had for a time left it. (Cheers and laughter.) Now I was asked the other night why I am disposed to disturb this state of prosperity to which I allude. I was told the other night that I had admitted that during a period of three years there had been comparative abundance and comparative prosperity—that that abundance and prosperity had co-existed with the Corn-law of 1842, and where then was the necessity for disturbing the arrangement then made. Sir, my answer is this. That up to the month of October last the indications of the prosperity in question did exist; but that during that month, and for the two or three which have elapsed since, there has been an apparent sympathy between the prosperity of the manufacturing districts and the price of wheat. (Hear, hear.) One of the circulars issued from Manchester, containing an account of the state of trade in that town, and dated the 22nd of the present January, contains the following passage:—

"The anticipations which we ventured to make in our last annual circular, as to the prospects of the year we had then just entered upon, were fully realised for the first nine months, during which we enjoyed not only a continuance of the prosperity of 1844, but had reached to a degree unexampled in our manufacturing history—extending to every branch, and acting powerfully on the social condition of our teeming population. The causes which combined to produce this state of things were, as in the former year, steadiness of prices, with a demand constantly keeping pace with the supply; low rates for the raw material, abundance of money at a moderate rate of interest, with a discriminating and careful management of our banking institutions; regular and full employment for all classes of our operatives, with cheap and abundant food, and the absence of any political event threatening either our domestic peace or foreign relations, to which may be added, the wise and comprehensive fiscal measures of the last session of Parliament. Unhappily, we have latterly experienced a reverse in several of these elements of prosperity, which, acting on each other, led to a state of embarrassment under which we laboured for the last three months of the year, and are still labouring, though in a mitigated form. Our home trade demand, up to the end of September, was on an unprecedentedly large scale, but from the causes above-mentioned, an almost total suspension took place for the two succeeding months, which has been followed since by a moderate business only."

We are not, therefore, to conclude that up to the time at which I am speaking these indications of prosperity continued unabated. The events which have passed since the month of October, 1845, have certainly constituted one of the grounds on which I have come to the conclusion which I have arrived at, (Hear, hear.) And now, Mr. Greene, these are the proposals which, upon the part of her Majesty's Government, I offer for the adjustment—for the ultimate adjustment—of this great question. I cannot appeal to any ungenerous feelings of fear—to anything which can unduly sway your minds—as a reason for your listening with patience to my propositions. There may be agitation, but it is not agitation which has reached the great mass of the labouring community. There has been a total absence of all popular excitement. I admit, therefore, that it is possible, without danger to the public peace, to continue the existing law; I cannot, therefore, appeal to your fears. But I tell you that there has occurred a great change in the opinion of a vast proportion of the community on the subject of the Corn-laws—(Loud Opposition cheering)—that there exists between the master manufacturers and the operative classes a common conviction, which did not prevail in 1842, or in any previous year, that it is for the public advantage that these laws should be altered—(Loud cheers); but I believe that although there undoubtedly does prevail that union of sentiment on the subject, I cannot say that there is co-existent with it anything but general contentment, general loyalty, and a deep-seated confidence in the justice and wisdom of the decisions of this House. So far as I can judge, the example which you have set in taking on yourselves great pecuniary burdens, in order that you might relieve the labouring classes from the taxation to which they were subject, has produced the deepest impression, and the most beneficial effect. I repeat that I believe there exists a perfect confidence in your judgment and your wisdom. But, although this is a time of peace and plenty—although there prevails a perfect calm, excepting so far as agitation among the principal manufacturers may interrupt it ("hear," and a laugh)—although you are now not subject to any coercion, I entreat you to bear in mind that the aspect of affairs may be changed (hear)—that we may have to contend with worse harvests than that which we have lately gathered, and that it may be wise to avail ourselves of the present time for effecting an adjustment—an adjustment which, I believe, must ultimately take place, and which cannot be long protracted, without engendering deep feelings of animosity between different classes of her Majesty's subjects. (Cheers.) From the sincere belief which I entertain that that settlement must be brought about—from the sincere hope which I feel that, coupled with the precautionary measures to which I have referred, it will not inflict injury on the agricultural interest—from these feelings, and with these feelings, I should deeply lament—on public grounds exclusively—the failure of the measures which, on the part of her Majesty's Government, I have, on the present occasion, recommended to your calm and dispassionate consideration; and recommended, mind, with no feeling, with no interest in the ultimate issue, other than that it may prove, in the words of the Royal Speech, conducive to the maintenance of friendly feeling between the different classes of the community, a security for the permanence of peace, and an assurance for the contentment and loyalty of all classes, of all ranks of her Majesty's subjects, by increasing the comforts, and bettering the condition, of the great body of the people.

The right hon. Baronet resumed his seat amid considerable Opposition cheering. His speech occupied three hours and twenty-five minutes in the delivery. The following Resolutions, which we copy from the Votes, were then read by the Clerk at the table:—

RESOLUTIONS

PROPOSED IN COMMITTEE ON CORN AND CUSTOMS IMPORTATION ACTS.

Resolved—That in lieu of the Duties now payable on the importation of Corn, Grain, Meal, or Flour, there shall be paid, until the 1st day of February, 1849, the following Duties, viz.—

If imported from any Foreign Country:

Wheat—Whenever the average price of Wheat, made up and published in the manner required by Law, shall be, for every quarter—

Under 48s. the Duty shall be, for every quarter	10 0
48s. and under 49s.	9 0
49s. and under 50s.	8 0
50s. and under 51s.	7 0
51s. and under 52s.	6 0
52s. and under 53s.	5 0
53s. and upwards	4 0

Barley, Beer, or Bigg—Whenever the average price of Barley, made up and published in the manner required by Law, shall be for every quarter—

Under 26s. the Duty shall be, for every quarter	5 0
26s. and under 27s.	4 6
27s. and under 28s.	4 0
28s. and under 29s.	3 6
29s. and under 30s.	3 0
30s. and under 31s.	2 6
31s. and upwards	2 0

Oats—Whenever the average price of Oats, made up and published in the manner required by Law, shall be, for every quarter—

Under 18s. the Duty shall be, for every quarter	8 0
18s. and under 19s.	7 6
19s. and under 20s.	7 0
20s. and under 21s.	6 6
21s. and under 22s.	6 0
22s. and upwards	5 6

Rye, Pease, and Beans—For every quarter, a Duty equal in amount to the Duty payable on a quarter of Barley.

Wheat Meal, and Flour—For every barrel, being one hundred and ninety-six pounds, a Duty equal in amount to the Duty payable on thirty-eight gallons and a half of wheat.

Barley Meal—For every quantity of pounds, a Duty equal in amount to the Duty payable on a quarter of Barley.

Out Meal—For every quantity of one hundred and eighty-one pounds and a half, a Duty equal in amount to the Duty payable on a quarter of Oats.

Rye Meal—For every quantity of pounds; a Duty equal in amount to the Duty payable on a quarter of Rye.

Pea Meal and Bean Meal—For every quantity of pounds; a Duty equal in amount to the Duty payable on a quarter of Pease or Beans.

And that, from and after the said 1st day of February, 1849, there shall be paid the following Duties, viz.—

Wheat, Barley, Beer or Bigg, Oats, Rye, Pease, and Beans, for every quarter	1 0
Wheat Meal, Barley Meal, Out Meal, Rye Meal, Pea Meal, and Bean Meal, for every cwt	0 4

If the produce of, and imported from, any British Possession, out of Europe:

Wheat, Barley, Beer or Bigg, Oats, Rye, Pease, and Beans, the Duty shall be for every quarter	1 0
Wheat Meal, Barley Meal, Out Meal, Rye Meal, Pea Meal, and Bean Meal, the Duty shall be, for every cwt	0 4

Resolved—That in lieu of the Duties of Customs now chargeable on the articles undermentioned, imported into the United Kingdom, the following Duties shall be charged, viz.—

Agates or Cornelians, set, for every £100 value	10 0
Alc and Beer of all sorts, for every barrel	1 0 0
Almonds, Paste of, for every £100 value	10 0
Amber, Manufactures of, not enumerated, for every £100 value	10 0
Arrow Root, the cwt.	0 2 6
Arrow Root, of and from a British Possession, per cwt.	10 0
Bandstring Twist, for every £100 value	5 0
Bandstring Twist, of and from a British Possession, for every £100 value	0 2 6
Barley, Pearled, the cwt.	0 1 3
Barley, Pearled, of and from a British Possession, the cwt.	10 0
Best Hops, Twines, and Strands, for every £100 value	10 0

Best Ropes, Twines, and Strands, of and from a British Possession, for every £100 value	5	0	0
Beads, viz.—			
Arango, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Coral, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Crystal, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Jet, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Not otherwise enumerated or described	10	0	0
Beer or Mum, the barrel	1	0	0
Blacking, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Brass, Manufacturers of, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Brass, Powder of, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Brocade of Gold or Silver, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Bronze, Manufacturers of, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Bronze Powder, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Buck Wheat, the quarter	0	1	0
Butter, the cwt.	0	2	6
Butter of and from a British Possession, the cwt.	0	2	6
Buttons, Metal, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Candles, viz.—			
Spermaceti, the lb.	0	0	3
Searine, the lb.	0	0	1
Tallow, the cwt.	0	5	0
Wax, the lb.	0	0	2
Canes, Walking Canes or Sticks, mounted, painted, or otherwise ornamented, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Carriages of all sorts, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Casks, empty, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Cassia Powder, the cwt.	0	2	6
Cassia Powder of and from a British Possession, the cwt.	0	2	6
Cattings, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Cheese, the cwt.	0	5	0
Cheese of and from a British Possession, the cwt.	0	5	0
China or Porcelain Ware, painted or plain, gilt or ornamented, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Cider, the tun	5	0	0
Citron, preserved in salt, for every £100 value	5	0	0
Clocks, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Copper Manufacturers not otherwise enumerated or described, and Copper Plates engraved, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Copper or Brass Wire, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Cotton, articles or manufactures of Cotton, wholly or in part made up not otherwise charged with Duty, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Cotton, of and from a British Possession, for every £100 value	5	0	0
Creams, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Crystal, cut or manufactured, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Cucumbers, preserved, for every £100 value	5	0	0
Cucumbers, of and from a British Possession, for every £100 value	2	10	0
Fish cured, not otherwise enumerated, the cwt.	0	1	0
Gauze of Thread, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Gauze, of and from a British Possession, for every £100 value	5	0	0
Hair, Manufacturers of Hair or Goats' Wool, or of Hair or Goats' Wool and any other material, and articles of such manufacture wholly or in part made up, not particularly enumerated, or otherwise charged with Duty, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Hair, of and from a British Possession, for every £100 value	5	0	0
Hams, of all kinds, the cwt.	0	7	0
Hams, of and from a British Possession, the cwt.	0	7	0
Harp Strings, or Lute Strings, silvered, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Hats or Bonnets, viz.—			
of Chip, the lb.	0	3	6
of Bast, Cane, or Horsehair Hats or Bonnets, each Hat or Bonnet not exceeding twenty-two inches in diameter, the dozen	0	7	6
each Hat or Bonnet exceeding twenty-two inches in diameter, the dozen	0	10	0
Straw Hats or Bonnets, the lb.	0	2	0
Hats, Felt, Hair, Wool, or Beaver Hats, each	0	2	0
Hats, made of Silk, Silk Shag laid upon felt, linen, or other material, each	0	2	0
Hops, the cwt.	2	5	0
Iron and Steel, wrought, not otherwise enumerated, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Iron and Steel, cast, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Lace, viz. Thread, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Lace, made by the hand, commonly called Cushion or Pillow Lace, whether of linen, cotton, or silken thread, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Latten Wire, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Lead, Manufacturers of, not otherwise enumerated, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Leather, Manufacturers of			
Boots, Shoes, and Calashes, viz.—			
Women's Boots and Calashes, the dozen pair	0	6	0
Women's Boots and Calashes, if lined or trimmed with fur or other trimming, the dozen pair	0	7	6
Women's Shoes, with cork or double soles, quilted shoes and clogs, the dozen pair	0	5	0
Women's Shoes, if lined with fur or any other trimming, the dozen pair	0	6	0
Women's Shoes of silk, satin, jean, or other stuffs, kid, morocco, or other leather, the dozen pair	0	4	6
Women's Shoes, if trimmed or lined with fur or any other trimming, the dozen pair	0	5	0
Girls' Boots, Shoes, and Calashes, not exceeding seven inches in length, to be charged with two-thirds of the above Duties	0	5	0
Men's Boots, the dozen pair	0	14	0
Men's Shoes, the dozen pair	0	7	0
Boys' Boots and Shoes, not exceeding seven inches in length, to be charged with two-thirds of the above Duties	0	1	9
Leather Boot Fronts not exceeding nine inches in height, the dozen pair	0	2	9
Leather cut into shapes, or any article made of Leather, or any manufacture whereof Leather is the most valuable part, not otherwise enumerated or described, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Linen, or Linen and Cotton, viz.—			
Cambrics and Lawns, commonly called French Lawns, the piece not exceeding eight yards in length, and not exceeding seven-eighths of a yard in breadth, and so in proportion for any greater or less quantity, plain, the piece	0	2	6
Bordered Handkerchiefs, the piece	0	2	6
Lawn of any sort, not French, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Damaiks, the square yard	0	0	5
Damaik Diaper, the square yard	0	0	2½
Plain Linen and Diaper, not otherwise enumerated or described, and whether chequered or striped with dye, yarn, or not, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Sails, not in actual use of a British ship, and fit and necessary for such ship, and otherwise disposed of, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Articles, manufactures of Linen, or of Linen mixed with Cotton, or with Wool wholly or in part made up, not particularly enumerated, or otherwise charged with Duty, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Maize or Indian Corn, per quarter	0	1	0
Malze Meal, the cwt.	0	0	8
Musical Instruments, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Mustard Flour, the cwt.	0	6	0
Paper, printed, painted, or stained Paper, or Paper Hangings, or Flock Paper, the square yard	0	0	2
Pencils, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Pencils of Slate, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Perfumery, not otherwise charged, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Perry, the tun	5	0	0
Pewter, Manufacturers of, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Plating of Straw, the lb.	0	5	0
Potatoes, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Puddings and Sausages, the lb.	0	1	0
Rice, the cwt.	0	1	0
Rough, and in the husk, the quarter	0	0	6
Sago, the cwt.	0	0	6
Sausages or Puddings, the lb.	0	0	1
Seeds, viz.—			
Canary, the cwt.	0	5	0
Caraway, the cwt.	0	5	0
Carrot, the cwt.	0	5	0
Clover, the cwt.	0	5	0
Leek, the cwt.	0	5	0
Mustard, the cwt.	0	1	3
Onion, the cwt.	0	5	0
All other Seeds not particularly enumerated or described or otherwise charged with Duty, for every £100 value	5	0	0
These Seeds of, and from a British Possession to be charged only one-half of these Duties			
Silk Manufacturers—Manufactures of Silk, or of Silk mixed with metal, or any other material, produced in Europe, viz.—			
Silk or Satin, plain, striped, figured, or brocade, viz., Broad Stuffs, the lb.	0	5	0
Articles thereof, not otherwise enumerated, the lb.	0	6	0
Or, and at the option of the Officers of the Customs for every £100 value	15	0	0
Ribbons, the lb.	0	6	0
Silk Gauze or Crape, plain, striped, figured, or brocade, viz., Broad Stuffs, the lb.	0	10	0
Articles thereof, not otherwise enumerated, the lb.	0	10	0
Or, and at the option of the Officers of the Customs, for every £100 value	15	0	0
Ribbons, the lb.	0	11	0
Gauze of all descriptions, mixed with silk, satin, or any other materials, in the proportion of one-half part of the fabric, the lb.	0	9	0
Articles thereof, not otherwise enumerated, the lb.	0	9	0
Or, and at the option of the Officers of the Customs, for every £100 value	15	0	0
Velvet, plain or figured, the lb.	0	9	0
Articles thereof, not otherwise enumerated, the lb.	0	10	0
Or, and at the option of the Officers of the Customs, for every £100 value	15	0	0
Ribbons of Silk, embossed, or figured with velvet, the lb.	0	9	0
Manufactures of silk, or of silk and any other material called plush, commonly used for making hats, the lb.	0	2	0
Fancy Silk Net, or Tricot, the lb.	0	8	0
Plain Silk Lace, or Net called Tulle, the lb.	0	8	0
Manufactures of Silk, or of Silk mixed with any other materials, not particularly enumerated, or otherwise charged with Duty, for every £100 value	15	0	0
Millinery, of Silk, or of which the greater part of the material is Silk, viz.—			
Turbans or Caps, each	0	3	6
Hats or Bonnets, each	0	7	0
Dresses, each	1	10	0
Manufactures of Silk, or of Silk and any other materials, and articles of the same wholly or partially made up not particularly enumerated or otherwise charged with Duty, for every £100 value	15	0	0
Silk Worm Gut for every £100 value	10	0	0
Skins, articles manufactured of Skins or Furs, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Soap, Hard, the cwt.	0	1	0
Of and from a British Possession, the cwt.	0	14	0
Soap, Soft, the cwt.	0	10	0
Of and from a British Possession, the cwt.	0	10	0
Soap, Naples, the cwt.	0	1	0
Spare Ware, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Spirits, viz.—			
Brandy, Geneva, and other Foreign Spirits, not being Spirits or strong Waters the Produce of any British Possession in America, or any British Possession within the Limits of the East India Company's Charter, and not being sweetened, Epitome or Spirit mixed with any article, so that the Degree of Strength thereof cannot be exactly ascertained by such Hydrometer, the gallon	0	15	0
Steel, Manufacturers of, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Tallow, the cwt.	0	1	6
Of and from a British Possession, the cwt.	0	6	0
Tapioca, the cwt.	0	0	6
Tin, Manufacturers of, not otherwise enumerated, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Tobacco Pipes of Clay, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Tongues, the cwt.	0	7	0
Of and from a British Possession, the cwt.	0	2	0
Turnery not otherwise described, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Twine, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Of and from a British Possession, for every £100 value	5	0	0
Varnish, not otherwise described, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Wafers, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Washing Balls, the cwt.	0	1	0
Wax, Sealing Wax, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Whip Cord, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Wire, Gilt, or Plated, or Silver, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Woolens, Articles or Manufactures of Wool not being Goats' Wool, or of Wool mixed with Cotton, wholly or in part made up, not otherwise charged with Duty, for every £100 value	10	0	0
Of and from a British Possession, for every £100 value	5	0	0
Goats, Wares, or Manufactures of Goats' Wool, or of wholly manufactured, and not being enumerated or described, not otherwise charged with Duty, and not prohibited to be imported into or used in Great Britain or Ireland, for every £100 value	10	0	0

Resolved—That the Duties of Customs chargeable upon the goods, wares, and merchandise, hereafter mentioned, imported into the United Kingdom, shall cease and determine, viz.—

Animals, living, viz.—	
Asses	Lamp Black
Goats	Linen, Manufacturers of Linen, or of Linen mixed with Cotton, or with Wool, not particularly enumerated, or otherwise charged with Duty, not being articles wholly or in part made up
Oxen and Bulls	Magna Grecia ware
Cows	Manuscripts
Calves	Maps and Charts, or parts thereof, plain or coloured
Horses, Mares, Geldings, Colts, Foals	Mattresses
Mules	Meat, salted or fresh, not otherwise described
Sheep	Medals, of any sort
Lambs	Palmetto, Thatch manufactures
Swine and Hogs	Parchment
Pigs, sucking	Pens
Bacon	Plantains
Beef, fresh, or slightly salted	Potatoes
Beef, salted, not being corned Beef	Pork, fresh
Bottles of Earth and Stone, empty	Pork, salted, not Hams
Casts of Busts, Statues, or Figures	Silk, Thrown, dyed, viz.—Singles or Tram
Caviare	Organzine, or Crape Silk
Cranberries	Telescopes
Cotton Manufactures, not being articles wholly or in part made up, not otherwise charged with Duty	Thread, not otherwise enumerated or described
Enamel	Woolens, viz.—Manufactures of Wool, not being Goats' Wool, or of Wool mixed with Cotton, not particularly enumerated or described; not otherwise charged with Duty; not being articles wholly or in part made up
Gelatin	Yarn, of any sort
Glue	Vegetables, all, not otherwise enumerated or described
Hay	Vellum
Hides, or pieces thereof, tawed, curried, or in any way dressed, not otherwise enumerated	
Ink for Printers	
Ink, wrought	

When the above Resolutions had been read, Sir R. PEEL said that he wished to consult the convenience of the House, in appointing a time for the discussion on them. He wished that ample time should be given to their consideration of the great questions involved in them; and he should suggest ("Monday," from several voices on the Opposition benches.) If the House desired it to be Monday ("No, no," from the Ministerial side of the House.) He had not the slightest wish to hurry the question, and he would put it to the House, whether the debate might not be taken on that night (Tuesday) week.

Sir R. H. INGLIS said, his right hon. friend had stated, in the first instance, that his speech would be of a commercial, and not of a financial character; but, he apprehended that the House would find it impossible to comprehend clearly the speech of his right hon. friend, unless his right hon. friend stated, in general terms at least, the amount of the burden he proposed to take off, and to transfer to the direct account of the State. There appeared to be a direct expenditure of about £600,000 on the amount of the different items enumerated by his right hon. friend in the latter portion of his speech. What he (Sir R. Inglis) wished to know was, the amount of revenue likely to be lost by the non-receipt of duties proposed by his right hon. friend, and likewise the amount necessary to replace it.

Mr. W. S. O'BRIEN wished to know, before the right hon. Baronet answered the question of the hon. Baronet, whether that day fortnight would be too soon to fix for the discussion? (Oh, and hear.) The interest that was most deeply affected by the proposed change was the one least likely to assemble at an early period; and, therefore, unless sufficient time was afforded for the purpose of those who represented it, there would be no opportunity for them to give an opinion on the subject. (Hear.) The right hon. Baronet had announced certain advantages which were to accompany and follow Free-Trade; but whatever might be the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed plan, it would be quite impossible for the voice of the farmers to reach that House in less than a fortnight. (Hear, hear.) Whatever changes of opinion might have taken place among those hon. gentlemen who had been elected and had come into power for the support of the Corn-laws, it was most important if they were now prepared to run counter to their constituents, that they at least should be in no hurry until the opinions of their constituents should be ascertained. (Hear.) Considering the time given to measures of far less importance than this, he (Mr. S. O'Brien) would impress on the right hon. Baronet that a "little fortnight" was not too much to grant the agriculturists of this country, for the purpose of considering it. He was surprised that the other side of the House, who professed to have all the argument with them on the matter, should shrink from the full discussion of it.

Mr. HUME said it was not his side of the House that shrunk from the discussion, but that of the hon. gentleman; they were quite anxious for a discussion; and as to the argument of the hon. gentleman about waiting for the expression of his constituents' opinions, he would remind the hon. gentleman that he was there to judge for those in the provinces, returned as their representative, but not as their delegate. (Hear.) The hon. gentleman had heard the statements of the right hon. Baronet, and he could reply to them if he chose without consulting his constituents. He (Mr. H.) therefore hoped that the honourable gentleman would meet the discussion manfully and fairly, and not seek to avoid it, or throw it over by the side wind of a postponement.

Sir R. PEEL hoped that the discussion would proceed, as it had commenced, without anything of anger in its character. All he asked of hon. gentlemen was to allow him to conduct his own case. (Laughter.) Some hon. gentlemen connected with agriculture desired that the discussion should be that day week. Hon. gentlemen would bear in mind that the acceptance or rejection of the measure proposed was a matter of great importance to the country; but as its fate would ultimately depend upon the opinions expressed by the great body of the community, he should be the last to object to any reasonable delay. What he wished was the fullest discussion for it; and he freely admitted that it would be a great inconvenience if the agriculturists had not an ample opportunity of knowing it in all its bearings. He therefore proposed Thursday week to meet the wishes of all parties.

Mr. W. MILES said that he did not speak alone for agriculture, in asking for further delay before the discussion of the right hon. Baronet's proposition took place, but he spoke, likewise, for the various interests which would be affected for weal or woe by the measure. Whether the League or the agriculturists agitated the question, it was absolutely necessary that the country should thoroughly understand all the various reductions and modifications of duties proposed to be made by the right hon. Baronet before that House came to any decision upon the subject. He begged to recall to mind the time that was given for consideration of the Income-tax, when it was introduced by the right hon. Baronet. The discussion on that measure did not take place for several weeks. He was quite aware that measures involving money transactions ought not to be kept in a state of unnecessary suspense, but, on account of the great importance of the present measure to the whole community—agricultural, commercial, and manufacturing—he hoped the right hon. Baronet would see the propriety of delaying the discussion of his propositions for a reasonable period.

Sir R. PEEL need not say that his feelings were committed on the success of the bill, and how anxious he was that no needless delay should take place before it was discussed. He would not, however, object to the recommendation of the honourable gentleman (Mr. Miles), for he understood that the request for further delay was *bona fide* made for purposes of consideration. He admitted that a great change was likely to be effected by his measures, and he was desirous that the measures should have due deliberation; but he begged to state, so far as the Government were concerned, that when the measure was brought on it would be proceeded with *de die in diem*. At the hon. member's suggestion, he would name next Monday week for the discussion. (Hear.) With respect to the other questions put by the hon. member for the University of Oxford, he would remark that the calculation of loss of revenue on the reduction of duties on the raw material had so often disappointed him, that he felt reluctant to state the amount at which he estimated the probable loss to the revenue from the contemplated changes. In the recent reductions, he had anticipated a loss to the Excise of about a million, and to the Customs of about four millions; but it turned out that the loss by the reduction of protective duties had been more rapidly supplied than could possibly have been expected. The fact was shown to be that the absolute reduction of the protective duties led to such increased consumption that it was very difficult to form any estimate of the loss likely to occur from the taking off the duty on articles which contributed to the revenue. To the other question he could not give a direct answer, but he believed the charge on the Consolidated Fund would be about £530,000.

Lord J. RUSSELL did not object to a proper time being given for consideration before the discussion took place. He wished, however, to understand whether the course of the discussion would be to take the Corn question first, and to proceed with the other reductions afterwards?

Sir R. PEEL answered, that all he could say on that head was, that whatever course could be suggested as best calculated to enable the House to pronounce an opinion on the principle of his measure would be the course the most acceptable to him. If it were considered advisable to take the question of the Corn-laws first, so as to give honourable members who held different views to those involved in the proposition, an opportunity to express their sentiments, he would take that course readily. He was only desirous of taking that course which would enable those who dissented from the resolution to take the sense of the House on its principle forthwith.

Mr. LIDDELL said, it was with the greatest pain that he rose at this most important crisis to address the House. But he was impelled by a conscientious sense of duty—a sense of duty which he felt quite irresistible—to offer his opinions in opposition to those which had now been promulgated by her Majesty's Government. (Cheers.) The right hon. Baronet would admit that he had not had a more faithful and staunch supporter, not merely from the period when the existing Government commenced, but from the period when the right hon. Baronet left office in 1830. Ever since that time he had given the right hon. Baronet his unqualified support; and never since that time had he found any cause to repent. (Hear, hear.) He had supported the changes introduced into the Corn-law, for he was aware the agricultural interest could well afford some relaxation of the protection it then enjoyed. He had supported the right hon. Baronet throughout the whole of the Tariff which raised the question as to the admission of foreign cattle; and he had with still more confidence supported the right hon. Baronet on the Canada Corn Bill. In all those changes he (Mr. Liddell) kept steadily in view the principle of protection to British industry and British interests. (Hear, hear.) To the very last moment he had continued the confidence which hitherto he had placed in her Majesty's Government. He had, in spite of all the solicitations, declined to take part in a meeting which had lately been called in his own county, and at which a noble Duke (Cleveland), a personal friend of his own, had assisted. But after hearing the speech of the noble Lord who moved the Address (Lord F. Egerton)—after hearing the speech of the right hon. Baronet, in which the argument in favour of the principles of protection was abandoned as no longer tenable—he felt that the period had arrived

when he could no longer look forward with hope or confidence to the measures of the right hon. Baronet. (Hear, hear.) He would briefly advance the reasons that led him to take a course which was so painful to his own feelings, but which was the only course he could follow, consistent with honour and justice to himself. He fully admitted that the very first question which ought to occupy the attention of every lover of his country, was the question how the poor were to be fed; and a support of the principles he advocated was quite consistent with the consideration of that important question. The right hon. Baronet made a distinction between the policy of protection and the justice of continuing it to the agricultural interest. The policy of protection, the right hon. Baronet had declared he could no longer undertake to defend; that he could no longer conscientiously resist the annual motion of the hon. member for Wolverhampton (Mr. C. Villiers); that protection to agriculture could only be defended on the ground of exclusive burdens on land, and that they admitted of adjustment or compensation. Now, as to the policy of protection, it was most necessary to provide for the maintenance of the poor, and with that provision the policy of protection might still be defended; he asserted that by protection the poor had been provided for a long series of years with a cheap and abundant supply of food; upon those very grounds protection had hitherto been defended by the right hon. Baronet himself, and upon those very grounds it might be defended at the present moment. (Hear, hear.) During that series of years, this country had been visited by apprehensions of scarcity even more formidable than that arising from the failure of the potato crop. When a supply of corn had been required from abroad, it had always been obtained by importation, and he saw no reason to apprehend that the same supply would not be obtained if it were again needed. As to the policy of protection, let them look again at the improvement that had taken place in agriculture and cultivation. Upon what faith had such an amount of capital been invested in the cultivation of the soil? Who were those who would suffer the first and in the greatest degree from any great change in the range of prices they had hitherto been enabled to realize? But he would not be content with stating his own opinions on this subject; he would cite those of the right hon. Baronet himself, expressed in the speech in which he proposed his plan of 1842:—

"The protection which I propose to retain, I do not retain for the especial protection of any particular class. Protection cannot be vindicated on that principle. The only protection which can be vindicated, is that protection which is consistent with the general welfare of all classes in the country. My belief, and the belief of my colleagues is, that it is important for this country, that it is of the highest importance to the welfare of all classes in this country, that you should take care that the main sources of your supply of corn should be derived from domestic agriculture; while we also feel that any additional price which you may pay in effecting that object is an additional price, which cannot be vindicated as a bonus or premium to agriculture, but only on the ground of its being advantageous to the country at large."

With those principles he cordially concurred; those were the grounds upon which he (Mr. Liddell) advocated protection, and he could not say, after all he had heard from the right hon. Baronet, that he found any cause to depart from those principles. (Hear, hear.) What had occurred to produce the sudden and somewhat unexpected change in the opinions of the right hon. Baronet? One cause he had stated to be his experience of the success that attended his former relaxation of the restrictions of commerce; but another cause which had somewhat precipitated his views, he stated to be the failure of the potato crop in Ireland, and in parts of England. He assured the right hon. Baronet he addressed him in no spirit of irritation; it was with some feelings of disappointment indeed, but none of anger. But he could not help thinking that the law as it stood furnished a sufficient guarantee against any apprehensions of the consequences of that failure, and that the remedies the right hon. Baronet proposed to supply, were, in point of fact, no remedies at all. The starving cottier of Ireland, who depended for subsistence on his half or quarter acre of land, could not be benefited in any conceivable degree by opening the ports. If £100,000 or £200,000 could be sent to Ireland, if employment were given on public works, if money was put in the pockets of the people at the same time that measures were taken to lessen the price of food, then the poor of that country might be benefited; but how they could benefit from the measures of the right hon. Baronet, he could not see. This country had often been called on to furnish relief to Ireland in periods of scarcity, and similar measures might now have been adopted, with better prospects of success, and less dissatisfaction, than would attend the present policy. He admitted the great ability which marked the right hon. Baronet's statement; but he could not go with him to the full extent of his opinions. Surely, the right hon. Baronet could not intend to assert that the present prosperity of the country was caused by the relaxations of 1842; other causes, operating concurrently with those relaxations, had produced the present unexampled demand for labour; and to these causes combined the present prosperity must be attributed. As the right hon. Baronet, when he advocated a different policy, while admitting and deploring the distress of 1843, did not admit that it was occasioned by the Corn-laws alone, but asserted that the commercial depression arose from other causes also, so he (Mr. Liddell) must, in the same manner, contend that the present prosperity was not the result of the relaxations of protection alone, but was also due to circumstances concurrent with that relaxation. That prosperity was greater than at any former period; wages were high, and the prices of provisions so moderate that the labouring classes enjoyed more of the comforts, conveniences, and even the luxuries of life, than at any former period of their history; and all this had been attained under a system of protection which it was now sought to destroy! He could show that the prices of grain in the markets, at the present time, indicated no apprehensions of scarcity; taking the average of six weeks ending the 17th of January, 1846, wheat stood at 56s. 8d. per quarter—exactly the medium between 54s. and 58s., which the right hon. Baronet, when he modified the Tariff, stated was the reasonable average of the grower, and one that would secure a fair supply to the consumer. And, with this fair and reasonable price of corn, were they to be frightened with visions of scarcity which the markets did not realise? On these untenable arguments were they to do away with that system of protection under which the country had flourished, under which capital had been expended

Corn-law which was proposed. (Hear, hear.) The value of that species of compensation intended to be obtained by an alteration in the highway rates, he was unable to discover; and he could not but be of opinion, from experience and experiment, that to interfere in the way suggested with the appointment of local district surveyors, would prove both impracticable and injurious. He further thought that the advance of loans, on public credit, for agricultural improvements, would be dangerous. He could not see in what way the parties whose property was to be improved could be benefited, for if they could afford to repay the sums advanced, why could they not obtain that sum in the ordinary way, the way in which, when they were desirous of so doing, they always did raise money? (Hear, hear.) Without however, entering on a particular discussion at any further length, he might state that it was his decided conviction, that before the House sanctioned or opposed the measure now submitted to them, the country should be appealed to. (Hear, hear.) A question of such great, such paramount importance to the landed interest, ought to receive the deliberate consideration of the country, and the country ought deliberately to express its wishes, and its demands, before Parliament came to any decision. He (Mr. Liddell) knew, that in the event of a general election he could not offer his support to any popular outcry; that he would feel himself called upon to oppose the principles which had been so long and so zealously advocated by the members of the Anti-Corn-Law League; and that, therefore, he might look for resistance, and perhaps would have to anticipate rejection, in that borough which he had the honour to represent. He was well aware that a noble Lord, occupying the eminent position of Lord-Lieutenant of that county, had not thought it inconsistent with his dignity in Parliament, and his place in the country, to make a speech against him (Mr. Liddell) in the face of his constituents, and in behalf of that side to which the noble Lord gave in his adhesion; but, without any reference to what might be the result of his again presenting himself to his constituents, whatever might be the difficulties he would have, in so presenting himself, to encounter, he would not, for the purposes of obtaining popular favour, stoop to the advocacy of principles and a policy the very opposite of those which he had on another occasion been sent to Parliament to support, and in defence of which alone he had then asked for his seat. (Cheers.)

Captain Rous said, that when the right honourable Baronet was surrounded by such questionable friends—when in the neighbourhood of gentlemen who had not yet made up their minds as to which side of the house they would honour with their notice—it might not be unacceptable for him (Captain Rous) to declare that he would support him, and the measures he proposed heart and soul; and he would do so, because he was satisfied they were measures for the welfare of every class of her Majesty's subjects. (Hear, hear.) From the Opposition benches. On many occasions he had opposed the right hon. Baronet, but in the general scheme of his policy he had almost invariably concurred; and what was now submitted to the consideration of the House, he could most cordially approve. There had been instances recently when hon. gentlemen behind him (Captain Rous) have backed first into one gallery and then into another, when alterations or limitations of the working of the then existing Corn-laws had been proposed; and what he particularly referred to, was when last year a proposition had been brought forward to admit Australian corn on the same terms, and subject to the same laws as Canadian corn. Although there was then not a single argument or an attempt at an argument, introduced by one among the seceders, they went over to the other gallery, and, without pretext or reason, voted against the measure. He rose in opposition to many of his old friends and to some of his relatives, but he did so conscientiously, and in despite of the results which he had reason to apprehend would not be beneficial to his own interests. When he at first heard of the failure of the potato crop in Ireland—of its partial failure in England, his expectation had been—and, unfortunately, it had to a great extent been realised—that a fortnight's continuance of rain would destroy, at the very least, one-fourth of the wheat crop; and, under such circumstances, it was apparent to him, as it had been apparent to every man who had reflected impartially on the crisis, that something ought to be done which, in extent and principle, should meet, adequately, the occasion. The argument which he had to use in defence of the course he was now taking, and of the opinions he had now expressed, was an incontrovertible one; it was, that as the population of this country was increasing at an incalculable ratio, it stood to reason that if the supply of food for that population was restricted to a certain area, the supply which was stationary must eventually become inadequate to the increased demand. He had no fear of anything taking place like 2,000,000 of acres being thrown out of cultivation, for he was well assured, and all the country gentlemen must be aware, that so long as there was a labourer in the parish, and labourers there always would be, the land would never be left uncultivated. It could not be expected, however, that he (Captain Rous) should, that night, speak to the subject; but as he had seen hon. members on all sides of him, who had come to the House ready primed with a speech, before they knew, or could know, upon what they were to speak, or what was the measure they had determined to reject (laughter); when he saw those hon. gentlemen, and heard them declare that they would use all their efforts and all their skill to defeat that measure, whether justifiably or not—he should not have done his duty as a man and as a member of that House, if he had not stood up, and used every constitutional means in his power, to secure to the proposition of the right hon. Baronet, a full and fair hearing. (Cheers.) The hon. and gallant gentleman brought his observations to a close by saying, that in the event of the right hon. Baronet falling in his plans, of a dissolution of Parliament, and of the noble Lord, the member for London, becoming Prime Minister, he (Captain Rous) was prepared, and would be glad to give to that noble Lord the same support which he now offered to the right hon. Baronet. (Cheers from the Opposition benches.)

Mr. STAFFORD O'BRIEN said that the hon. and gallant gentleman who had just addressed the House, had thought proper to allude to the votes given by members on the Ministerial benches with respect to the admission of Australian corn, and other questions. But it appeared to him (Mr. A. S. O'Brien) that the wiser course for the supporters of the right hon. Baronet would be, to avoid any allusion to past votes, and to let bygones be bygones. (Hear, hear.) He did not think that the followers of Ministers had any reason to rejoice in the pleasures of memory. The exultation of the hon. member for Stockport himself must be damped even on that day of his triumph, by the recollection that the right hon. Baronet had declared over and over again, that not one of his arguments or his speeches had produced the least effect on his mind. The hon. member for Stockport had called the agriculturists stupid persons, because they could not appreciate the force of his arguments. But it was a remarkable fact, that the right hon. Baronet had preserved that one point of identity with the agricultural party—that neither he nor they had been in the least convinced by the arguments of the hon. gentleman. And not only the right hon. Baronet, but the noble Duke, the leading Minister in the other House, had been unable to appreciate the cogency of those arguments. There was a question mooted by the hon. gentleman the member for Montrose, to which he wished particularly to allude. He (Mr. A. S. O'Brien) had said that time ought to be allowed to the members of that House to consult their constituents; but up rose the hon. gentleman and asked whether they were to consider themselves as delegates, and whether they were not to have the power of judging for themselves. Certainly the ultra-Toryism of the hon. gentleman upon that subject was somewhat remarkable. For his part he was ambitious of no higher honour, while he represented North Northamptonshire, than to ascertain the feelings of his constituents, and to act in conformity with them. The hon. gentleman was the very last member in that House who ought to indulge in the observations which had fallen from him upon that subject. That hon. gentleman was, as it were, the very butterfly of the House. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) He was, he (Mr. O'Brien) believed, the only member of that House who not only had not confined himself to the boroughs or the counties of this country, but who had not even confined himself to this island. He was, he repeated, the very butterfly of their representative system. He had visited, not only the pasture lands of England, but the potato fields of Kilkenny.

Mr. HUME: I never was there. (Laughter.)

Mr. A. S. O'BRIEN: The hon. gentleman never was there. More shame for him. For his part, he would say, in conclusion, that if he found that his opinions did not coincide with those of his constituents he should resign the trust they had committed to his charge. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. NEWDEGATE wished to ask the right Baronet whether he had formed any estimate of the probable price of corn or of flour under the measure which he had proposed that evening?

Sir R. PEEL said he had not formed any such estimate.

Viscount INGESTRE wished to know how the averages for the tithes were to be taken under the proposed measure?

Sir R. PEEL said that the present system of averages need not be abandoned under the measure he had proposed. They could be kept up in perfect consistency with the removal of duties.

Viscount INGESTRE said he wished to take that opportunity of stating that, neither in the speech of the right hon. Baronet that evening, nor in his speech on Thursday last, had he heard any argument which could convince him of the necessity of the great organic change which had been proposed that evening. Neither did he see, in the compensation offered by the right hon. Baronet, any reason for supporting so great a change. He had hitherto steadily supported the measures of the right hon. Baronet; and he was not one of those who, at a perilous moment, would wish to raise a mummy, for he knew the advantage of following a skilful and experienced leader. But he did not like to follow any leader in a course which could only end in destruction. He felt it his duty at once to enter his protest against any diminution of the present amount of protection to native industry.

The Hon. F. SCOTT said he had heard nothing from the right hon. Baronet which could induce him to abandon the course he had hitherto pursued, and to discontinue that protection to native industry which he had hitherto supported under the auspices of the right hon. Baronet, and which he believed to have contributed in a great measure to the prosperity of this country. He had refused to give any pledges at his election; but as a promise was stronger than a bond, so he conceived that an implied understanding was to an honourable mind even stronger than an actual pledge. He had the greatest respect for the opinions of the right hon. Baronet; and yet he did not think that any evidence had been adduced by the right hon. Baronet which went to prove that there existed any necessity for the proposed change. The country had never been more prosperous than since the year 1842, and he therefore saw no reason, in our present condition, for the proposed measure. He admitted that the prices of grain had a material influence on the welfare and the prosperity of the country, and he was persuaded that an abundance of grain grown from our own soil was the greatest blessing which we could possibly enjoy. But, under the protective system, our agriculturists had been enabled to increase their produce in a greater proportion than our population had increased. With the improvements which were now taking place in our agriculture, he felt persuaded that if the present protective system were continued for 10 or 15 years more, the increase in our agricultural produce would outstrip the increase in our population. He recollected that the right hon. Baronet had declared to them, as an inducement to support the existing measure, that they would, by that measure,

so fortify their position, that they would be able to defend it against all comers; and, for his part, he could not conceive how the circumstances which had since taken place could produce such a revolution in the mind of the right hon. Baronet, that he would come forward, and ask them to eat their own words, and to abandon all their former principles. He complained that the reduction on articles of agriculture was greater than that on articles of manufacture. He objected to the scheme for giving compensation as a contrivance of a most iniquitous character. The right hon. Baronet proposed to meddle with everything, and to settle nothing; and would reduce this country to the same state as France, where it was impossible to erect a pump-handle without consulting the Secretary of State. The right hon. Baronet had told them of large proposed reductions in Customs and Excise, but had not informed the House how the deficiency was to be replaced—whether by a Property-tax, or by other means. In making these observations, he spoke his independent sentiments, and had not been in communication with any Protection Societies; and he would conclude by expressing his sincere regret that it was not in his power to support the right hon. Baronet in his proposed measures.

Lord G. BENTINCK wished to ask the right hon. Baronet how he proposed to deal with the payment of tithes in his general scheme of compensation? He assumed that the right hon. Baronet proposed to reduce the price of wheat to 45s. As the averages for fixing the payment of tithes were taken every seven years, it followed that the agricultural interest would have to pay tithes at the rate of 58s. a quarter for the next seven years, and it would not be till the end of that period that they would come down to 45s. He, therefore, wished to ask the right hon. Baronet whether he proposed to introduce any measure by which he could so arrange the payments of tithes as to bring them down to the rate of 45s.?

Sir R. PEEL said it was not his intention to make any alteration in the law with respect to tithes. In the first place, he was not prepared to assume that there would be any very material alteration in the price of wheat. (Hear, hear.) The same question might have been put in 1842. He might have been asked in 1842, as at that time there was a great reduction in the amount of protection, what course he proposed to take in the arrangement as to tithes. His noble friend assumed that there would be a very material falling-off in the price of corn from the reduction. Of course, it was impossible to calculate what difference in price would be the consequence of the reduction, but he could show his noble friend that the reductions in the Tariff had not led to any reduction in the price of the various articles, in consequence of their increased consumption. He, therefore, would by no means undertake to say that there might not be an increased demand for corn; and he did not think it necessary, therefore, that there should be a reduction in its price. At any rate, it was a matter of uncertainty, and it would, therefore, be premature to legislate now on such an assumption. He sincerely hoped that the result of his proposed measures might be increased comfort and enjoyment amongst the people, and that there might not necessarily be a reduction in the price of agricultural produce which could materially interfere with agricultural prosperity. Such was his hope, and it would be, therefore, premature in him to make any pledge on the subject.

Sir J. TYRELL (who rose from the front row of the Opposition seats, opposite the Treasury bench, amidst loud cheers and laughter from both sides of the House) said, perhaps the right hon. Baronet would permit him to ask him a question. He (Sir J. Tyrell) had had the honour of being present when a deputation waited on the right hon. Baronet, on the subject of the Corn-laws. The right hon. Baronet, on that occasion, presented a pistol at the head of his noble friend the Duke of Richmond (laughter), by holding out to him a document having reference to the price of wool (hear, hear), and triumphantly asked him, as the price of wool had risen, what right he had to expect a fall in the price of corn, as the consequence of the diminution of protection. The right hon. Baronet, also, on one or two occasions, addressing himself to the agricultural interest, said:—"You have no right to be alarmed, because, having taken off the duty on wool, a powerful rise in price had taken place." He (Sir J. Tyrell) had always understood that the real grounds on which that argument rested were those stated by the hon. member for the West Riding, and those connected with the manufacturing interest. They stated, and with great truth, that English wool was necessary for the manufacture of coarse cloth, which was largely used by the lower orders in this country and abroad, and, therefore, by having a large importation of foreign wool, the manufacturers were enabled to manufacture a great mass of the coarser cloths of this country; and this accounted for the great consumption of British wool. It was, therefore, unworthy of the right hon. Baronet to put that case as a parallel to corn. Without entering into the question he confessed he felt just as he would imagine any one engaged in the Peninsular war would have felt, if the Duke of Wellington and a great portion of his staff had gone over to Marshal Soult. (Cheers and laughter.) A farmer had said to him, while out hunting the other day, truly enough, "It is of no use talking to the right hon. Baronet; he will not be interfered with; his dictum must be obeyed: so far as he is concerned he will use his best endeavours to force this alteration on the country without any regard to the opinions of others." Such was the purport of the right hon. Baronet's speech from the Throne (laughter)—of the Royal Speech he meant. His complaint against the right hon. Baronet was, that he had not, by appealing to the country, placed his supporters in the same position as they were before. Had he done so, he should have made no complaint. The conduct of the Duke of Wellington, and a noble Lord who had quitted the Cabinet, showed that they did not think the right hon. Baronet's course consistent with that high honour and integrity which they thought belonged to him, in endeavouring to force these questions on without appealing to the country. The argument of the right hon. Baronet, that the prosperity of the country was owing to the relaxation of the import duties, was wholly inconclusive. If the logic of the right hon. Baronet was good for anything, it proved that a high price of provisions was not inconsistent with the prosperity of the country. He begged to remind the right hon. Baronet that in proposing the Income-tax he had told the country that the low price of provisions would compensate it for the imposition of the tax. The right hon. Baronet had, in fact, no right to assume that the prosperity of the country was attributable to his measures of commercial relaxation. Persons skilled in such matters, and connected with the money market and commercial speculations, were strongly of opinion that it was the result of increased facilities for communication by means of railroads, the consequence of which was that where £5000 were required formerly, £2000 would now suffice, leaving the surplus £3000 to be employed in railroads and other speculations, which tended to increase the prosperity of the country by giving employment to the people. If he had one-sixteenth part of the ability of the right hon. Baronet he felt sure he could make out a very strong case on this point. It was only on the experience of the last three years, it appeared, that the right hon. Baronet was prepared to take this great plunge. The right honourable Baronet had placed his supporters in a most humiliating position, and honourable members behind him (Sir J. Tyrell), Whigs and Radicals (laughter and cheers), if he might take the liberty of calling them so, were looking on to see with what amount of ingenuity the right hon. Baronet could lead them through the dirt. (Laughter.) Up to that moment no other member of the right hon. Baronet's Government had ventured to explain to the House why and wherefore they had been induced to make so sudden a change. They all knew that the noble Lord the member for the City of London, when he was in Scotland, like some other hon. members on that side of the House, was in a considerable state of irritation (laughter)—that he had, as it were, that complaint with which gentlemen in that part of the empire were afflicted. (Renewed laughter.) He wrote a letter to his constituents, whereupon the right hon. Baronet, finding himself in a considerable fix, threw up the Government (laughter); and this was one of the complaints which the advocates of the Corn-law had to lay at the door of the right hon. Baronet. "This is an unfair proceeding," the right hon. Baronet exclaimed; whereupon the noble Lord asked him how far he meant to go? but the right hon. Baronet, more wary than the noble Lord, refused to tell; but the noble Lord, nevertheless, turned round and said, "My fine fellow, you fight this battle so well, that I will consent to form a Government with you, and put myself at its head, and henceforth we will struggle together in the cause of liberal views." (Laughter.) But the noble Lord ascertained that the Liberal party insisted on the hon. member for Stockport forming part of the Administration. (No, no.) He believed he could prove his assertion; it was thought that, as the hon. member had borne the heat and burden of the day, he ought to form a prominent portion of the noble Lord's Cabinet; but this was not palatable to the old constitutional Whigs. The right hon. Baronet had not ventured to say a word about the potatoes. The right hon. Baronet had on two occasions called on them for their allegiance, and in 1841 he owned that such allegiance was due to him as the architect of his party, but he denied that such support could be claimed on behalf of what he must be permitted to call the Potato Peel Government. (Great laughter.) In his opinion the compensation plan of the right hon. Baronet was unworthy of him. A fortnight, it appeared, was to be allowed for the consideration of the Government propositions; for his own part he was just as ready to discuss them now as he would be a fortnight hence. The shoe question might require a separate discussion, perhaps, and there might be other articles in the same condition; but the whole thing was a hocus pocus, and not one thing in it had the slightest connection with the other. It might be a compromise, perhaps, with the Anti-Corn-Law League, but he denied that it was any compromise with the agricultural interest. (Hear, hear.)

Col. SIMMONS said he had received a letter that morning which he would take the liberty of reading to the House. It was from the Anti-Corn-Law League, and marked "private and confidential." (Loud laughter.) He should, however, have thought it his duty, notwithstanding it was marked "private and confidential," not only to read it publicly, but to send a communication proceeding from such a body of men—from a conspiracy (laughter)—to the public papers:—"My dear Sir,"—It began certainly with the *savante* in *modo*, but they would shortly find that it was also *fortiter* in *re*. (A laugh.) "The operations of the League in the qualification of Free-Trade electors in Lancashire, Yorkshire, Cheshire, Middlesex, and other trading counties, have secured a majority in favour of their principles in these important communities; the whole of the qualifications made through the agency of the League having been established before the registration courts, the council feel justified in appealing to the supporters of their principles to co-operate in extending the application of a plan, the success of which is so satisfactory to them. As the result of the labours of less than two months, the Free-Trade Registration Society of East Surrey were enabled to establish 553 claims and objections on the last registration for that county, and another association sustained many Free-Trade claims and objections. It is now ascertained, that if a vigorous effort be made to create new qualifications, it will rescue the representation of East Surrey out of the hands of the monopolists." (Laughter.) "I am directed by the council to take the liberty of urging on you personally." If they had called on him he should certainly have directed his butler to look up every salver spoon in the House (great laughter)—"the importance of immediately obtaining a freehold qualification for East Surrey, and of qualifying competent members of your family." What did they know of his family? (A laugh?) "And I also suggest it to any of your relations and friends who may be induced, by your strenuous recommendations, to follow your example." But he was now coming to the important part. "As, in all probability, the registration of 1846 and 1847 will be that on which the legislation of the country will turn for the ensuing

seven years, and as the qualification must be completed before the 31st January next, I need scarcely point out to you the importance of great dispatch, and I shall have much pleasure in conferring with you in reference to this subject, and in affording you any information or assistance you may require. An early notice of this will oblige. I remain, my dear Sir, faithfully yours, A. W. PAULTON." (Much laughter.) "Postscript.—On payment of the sum of £56 at this office, a 40s. freehold qualification will be obtained for you, which will enable you to vote for the Eastern Division of Surrey. This sum includes the cost of conveyance." What a liberal body! He had received that notice in the morning. He knew not whether it had been forwarded by the right hon. Baronet or not, but if it did, he had mistaken his mark. (Laughter.) He had felt an honest pride in supporting the right hon. Baronet. He had but one desire, and that was to discharge his duty as an honest, independent Member of Parliament, and to conciliate all classes—Free-Traders, merchants, manufacturers, and operatives—and, although he would have other opportunities of addressing the House, he would now say that a greater insult—a greater mockery—he had never witnessed during the twenty years he had had a seat in the British House of Commons, than the statement of the right hon. Baronet that evening. ("Hear," and laughter.)

The Earl of MARCH said that he never in his life was so horrified, so distressed, or so astonished, as when he heard the proposition that night made by the First Lord of the Treasury in his speech to the House. He for one, and he could speak for his constituents, for he knew their sentiments, would not for one moment accept of the proposition he had made; and he now begged leave to state to him that it would meet his strenuous, his violent, and his constant opposition. (Hear, hear.) They had heard, in the course of that session, statements made in that House and elsewhere, in which they were told that the opinions of the right hon. Baronet had undergone a change. He regretted much to hear that. When he heard the right hon. gentleman in June last make his speech in opposition to the motion of the honourable member for Wolverhampton, he certainly did not expect that in the following November his opinions would have been changed. He would not be the person to impute improper motives, but he did think that the House and the country had a right to demand of other members of the Administration—(Loud cheers)—the reasons that had occasioned their change of opinion, because it was said in another place that had occasioned their change of opinion, voted with the right hon. Baronet, and he held in his hands a paper in which the right hon. Gentleman, the Secretary at War, after he had accepted office, on a visit to his constituents, made a speech which he would, with the permission of the House, read an extract from. (The noble Lord here read an extract from the existing amount of protection—larger than it ought to be—that none could say that the protection was too large, looking to the burdens upon agriculture, and that he believed among the people of that country, and among her Majesty's Ministers, there was a determination to uphold the law.) (Cheers.) That if he met his constituents again in February, 1846? He maintained that they had a right to demand of the other Members of the Administration the cause of the change that had taken place in their opinions within so short a period. (Cheers.)

Mr. S. HERBERT.—I think it will be most becoming in me, and that it will be most agreeable to the House, if I do not, in this stage of the proceedings, enter at any length, or in any detail, into the grounds on which I have formed my opinions on the question now before the House, and which have induced a change in the opinions upon these great commercial subjects, which I have advanced year by year. (Cheers.) I say, in the first place, that this will be the most satisfactory course to me and to the House, because, in the discussions which will come on, I shall be able to state explicitly, simply, and amply, all the reasons which have weighed with me, and the grounds of the change of my opinions on this subject, rather than give a mutilated statement, which will not be satisfactory to the House, and certainly not to myself; and next, because it will not be for the convenience of the House to enter prematurely into a discussion of these enlarged plans, for every argument upon the whole subject has induced me to form the opinion I now hold, and I cannot enter upon the reasons for that opinion now, without anticipating the future arguments. (Cheers.) Of this, however, I can assure my noble friend, who has asked me for an explanation of the manner in which I imagine that I shall be received by my constituents, after I have advocated the measures brought forward by my right hon. friend to night—that my belief is, as no man can impute to me any but disinterested motives upon this occasion (loud cheering); as there has been neither any possibility nor wish for power which was forfeited, nor any desire of my own; as I am certainly not currying favour with a constituency which is purely agricultural; and as, likewise, I have a constituency among whom I have lived with the personal ties of the greatest friendship, who have trusted me; and, as I had from them, as they had from me, profound respect; that, even if there should be a difference of opinion between us upon any point, they will never have any other feeling towards me than that to which, during my whole life, I have aspired from those with whom I have had to deal. (Cheers.) And this I will add, that it was after the greatest anxiety I adopted the course I have taken; that I came to the deliberations, after the differences which led to the resignation of the Ministry, with my mind perfectly made up as to the course I should take; that the opinions which I urged in my communications with her Majesty's Ministers are embodied deliberately and explicitly to defend in this House. (Cheers.) The same opinions, without reserve, will be the passport with which I shall introduce myself to the notice of my constituents; and I am further of opinion that, when the question shall be regarded, as soon it will be, calmly and dispassionately, by many of those who take an interest, almost an exclusive interest, in agriculture, they will think that I have neither neglected my duty to them, nor to the public at large, by before the House. (Cheers.)

Mr. P. HOWARD, as a member connected with land, though the compensation was not so great as he could wish, was prepared to assent to these proposals. He wished, however, for some modification which, without injuring their popularity, would render the shock less sudden and violent. He thought, perhaps, that the period of three years was too short (no, no), and that the *minimum* of protection near towns in the alteration of the Law of Settlement.

Mr. WOODHOUSE wished to ask the right hon. Baronet two questions: the first was, whether it was his intention to lay on the table of the House any of the communications which he stated he had received from the crowned heads of Europe with respect to their opinions on Free-Trade; because, as yet, they had not received any assurances upon that subject, except what had been stated with respect to the payment of the medical men who were employed to attend the poor under the Poor-law act.

Sir R. PEEL said, that with respect to the second question of the hon. gentleman, a vote would be submitted to the House upon that subject, in which the interests of the rate-payers would be consulted, but a liberal allowance would be proposed for the encouragement of medical men. With respect to the opinions of the crowned heads of Europe upon Free-Trade, all the conventions and engagements that had been entered into on that subject he would undertake to lay on the table of the House, and from the very strong expressions on the part of the Secretary of the Treasury, he should judge that a material alteration would be made in the American Tariff. He should also be able to lay upon the table of the House very shortly the Tariff from Naples.

THE INCOME-TAX.

In answer to a question from Mr. GREGAN,

Sir R. PEEL said: I do hope that, from the reductions that are made, there will be increased consumption. I think it would be very inconvenient to enter into a discussion now, but I shall be able to show to the hon. gentleman that in this year, whilst there has been the greatest consumption of foreign butter, there has been the best price for domestic butter. The same cause that led to the increased importation of foreign butter has led to the increased price of domestic butter; and in the same year you will find that the increase of consumption varies with the increase of price. I do not wish to anticipate the statement that must be made in the Budget, but I will relieve any apprehension there may be on the subject of the Income-tax by saying that it is not the intention of her Majesty's Government to make any proposition with respect to the Income-tax. (Hear.) Fortified by the experience of the past, although there will be a temporary effect upon the revenue, yet I have that confidence in its elasticity, in consequence of the abundance of employment, that I do hope it will be possible to make all the reductions I propose without the imposition of any new tax. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. P. HOWARD wished to know whether it was proposed to make any reduction in the duty upon Slave-grown Sugar, because, if not, that would rather close the door to any negotiation with the Brazils?

Mr. CURTIS said, he thought he gathered from the statement of the right hon. Baronet that he meant to reduce the duty upon hops one-half. Now, representing as he did one of the largest hop-growing districts in the kingdom, he would say give them perfect free trade in hops, and take away the protection altogether, or else it would be very unfair to take away half the protection. (Hear, hear.) He asked that in the name of the hop-growers of the country; and he called on the hop-growers of Kent and East Sussex to support him in that, so that they might not be doubly fogged both as to corn and foreign hops. (Hear, hear.) He would give to the proposition of the right hon. Baronet his fair and candid consideration, and would do his utmost to bring his opinion to accord with that of the right hon. Baronet, for, being an agriculturist himself, he was most anxious that the question of the Corn-laws should be finally settled. (Hear, hear.)

Sir R. PEEL said that from the very kind manner in which the hon. gentleman had spoken, he would, if he were in private with the hon. gentleman, earnestly advise the hop-growers of Kent and Sussex not to stir in this question. (Hear, hear.) When he proposed to reduce the duty upon hops from £10 to £4 10s., he was met with the most strenuous opposition, and was told that the hop-growers must be seriously injured by it; but the whole amount of hops brought in only paid £10 duty. (Hear, hear.) The Excise duty paid upon hops was, he believed, about 18s.; and he therefore hoped that the duty he proposed of £2 10s. upon foreign hops would be found to be a very fair amount of protection. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. BENETT said, the right hon. Baronet seemed altogether to have forgotten the interests of those persons who consumed hops and malt—the labouring population of the country. (Hear, hear.) He came down to the House that evening with the full confidence that the right hon. Baronet would have proposed the repeal of the Malt-tax. (Hear, hear.) That tax fell heavily on the labouring classes of the country, for it was a tax upon one of their necessities of life. (Hear, hear.) And he was anxious to hear the speech of the right hon. gentleman, for he felt convinced in his own mind, from some hints which he threw out in the last session of Parliament, that the right hon. gentleman considered that the malt-duty was rather an oppressive duty, the repeal of which might be fairly asked for. That

indeed would have been a boon to the labouring population. Protection for the beverage of the poor man—he did expect they would have had, and that that would have been part of the right hon. Baronet's scheme; but in that he was truly disappointed. (Hear.)

Mr. B. ESCOTT rose to express his extreme thankfulness to the right hon. Baronet for having embodied in his measure a remission of the duties on Indian corn. He (Mr. Escott) had given notice of a measure having that object last year. His inquiries had satisfied him that there was no measure more calculated to benefit both the farmer and the farm labourer.

Mr. WAKLEY had expected that the gentlemen of the Anti-Corn-law League would have expressed their satisfaction at the proposition of the right hon. Baronet, and he was astonished at the stubborn silence which they had preserved; because it was impossible that they could have heard the scheme of the right hon. Baronet without expressing the strongest approbation, and in the main principle of his proposal agreeing with him. There might be some points of disagreement, and some arrangements which might call for discussion from them; but when they heard that in the end of three years there was to be a total repeal of the Corn-law, and a previous repeal with reference to the duties on the food of the people, it was utterly impossible that they could fail to express the strongest approval of the scheme as a whole. The honourable member for Wiltshire was disappointed at the proposition of the right hon. Baronet, because he did not come up to his expectations in regard to the Malt-tax. But he (Mr. Wakley) was firmly persuaded that the right honourable Baronet's measure was one calculated to benefit the millions, to benefit trade, and to preserve the peace of the world, and he, for one, was prepared, at once, without further hesitation, to say—representing, as he did, nearly 300,000 inhabitants of the northern part of the metropolis—that he felt for the scheme of the right hon. Baronet, the strongest possible favour. He firmly believed that no proposition was ever made to Parliament, as a whole, more calculated to tend to the improvement of the condition of the people of this country. Did the hon. Member for South Wiltshire think it nothing to propose a measure calculated to reduce the price of bread and meat? But if the proposition had been made with regard to the malt-tax, would it have obtained the support of the hon. Member for Wiltshire to the other parts of the right hon. Baronet's scheme? He (Mr. Wakley) clearly saw that the next fortnight was to be expended in agitation, and not very peaceful agitation. He saw clearly enough that an appeal was to be made to the passions of the electors of this country. He wished hon. Members to bear in mind the circumstances under which it would be made. He wished them to remember one fact with reference to the circumstances of the country, and to bear in mind that, if they did excite the passions of the agricultural electors, their agitation would extend not only to the most remote parts of the kingdom, but also to the cities and towns. He would beg of them to remember that there were hundreds of thousands of people in this country who were the consumers of food, and not the sellers of it, and who had no votes at elections. He would wish to ask them if they were prepared to raise every hustings in the kingdom as an instrument of torture to the eyes of the poor man who had not a vote? Let them remember that they were going to make an appeal of a most dangerous character. The poor man would say, "See what happens: the parties who return the Members are the sellers of food; we are the consumers of food; they have the votes, and we have none." Did they believe that, if an appeal of that kind were made, it could do otherwise than cause agitation, and be attended with danger to the peace of society? Millions who had no votes complained of class legislation, and said that they had no voice in electing those who were to govern the country; and they were about to call on the sellers of food to determine whether the consumers of food should have justice done to them with regard to commercial legislation. He stated this because he was convinced that if the appeal were made, and if strong excitement were raised by it, it would be of a most dangerous character, and calculated to endanger the peace of society. If hon. gentlemen were sincere in reference to the feelings of the mass of the people—if they really did consider that the mass of society would be opposed to the scheme of the right hon. Baronet, he would ask were they prepared to extend the franchise to the consumers of food? No, they were not; and he therefore said, under these circumstances, they would act wisely to be cautious how they excited the indignation of the millions, and induced them to believe that they were the promoters of oppression. Believing, as he did, that the scheme of the right hon. Baronet had been propounded with a sincere desire to benefit the nation at large, without reference to particular classes—believing that it was one of a just character—believing that there was nothing of injustice in it to any party, he should give it his most cordial support; and if the right hon. Baronet maintained the noble ground he had taken, the millions of England would carry his proposition for him, if appealed to.

Mr. BENNET said, he came to that House free and unpledged. He had pursued an honest course for 40 years in public and in private, and nothing should induce him to do anything which he did not believe to be for the benefit of his country. The hon. member for Finsbury talked of agitation; had he never heard of agitation before? Had he never heard of agitators on the other side going into every village? But the agitation might be turned the other way by the good sense of the agricultural labourers. At Goatacre, for instance, there were not 300 people, as stated, but a reporter, a brickmaker, who earned about 30s. a week, and another person like him. The speeches delivered by them were made for them, and this had been since proved and stated in the county paper. He could assure the hon. member that the farmers were not persons to agitate; they were deeply offended; but they had not the skill to agitate, and they really did not like agitation; nor were they agitators who would produce mischief.

Mr. GIBBONE denied that the Anti-Corn-law League had received the announcement of the right hon. Baronet with stubborn silence. They had not expressed the slightest disrespect to the measure of the right hon. gentleman; but on so complicated a measure nobody should be called upon hastily to express an opinion. He had left the house perfectly satisfied after the hon. gentleman opposite had contended for, and had conceded to them, a fortnight's time, that they were not that night going to raise a debate, and he had merely returned out of curiosity to hear what was going on. He had no authority to speak for the League, but he must say that its supporters could not be accused of any stubbornness for departing after so important a statement had been made.

Mr. NEWDEGATE said he had limited himself to a question of deep importance, which he had put to the right hon. Baronet. He could not, however, pass over the statement of the hon. member for Finsbury. Why had he made a powerful appeal against the danger of inflaming the passions of the working classes? Had he known the gentlemen on his (Mr. Newdegate's) side of the house excite their feelings? Had he forgotten 1842, and that it was then the gentlemen and yeomanry of England who mainly contributed to preserve the peace of the country from the agitation created by the Anti-Corn-law League? Had he forgotten that he (Mr. Newdegate) had stated this out of the house, and that he had been attacked in both Houses of Parliament on the same night for making that statement? Had he forgotten that he (Mr. Newdegate) had produced evidence to prove that it was the Anti-Corn-law League which was exciting the people? and could he forget the fact that it was the agriculturists who then saved the country? Perhaps her Majesty's Government might not hereafter meet with that cordial support which they had hitherto had; and those men who had stood forward and furnished them with the means of defending the country might not be able again to do the same. They could not forget that this measure had been mainly supported by agitation. Was agitation to be employed against the agriculturists alone? Were they to be told that the agriculturist knew nothing of his interest in the country? Were they unable to form an independent judgment? And if not, were they not to consult with their fellow-countrymen? The secrecy with which this measure had been concocted gave good reason for them to consult about it. He thought they were justified in claiming time to consider the proposal of the right hon. Baronet. The hon. member for Finsbury appeared so anxious to press the measure, that it seemed as if he was afraid that the country should be enabled to express an opinion on the subject. He considered that, when a Minister had cast aside the experience of a long life, and was prepared to act upon the experience of four years, during which the policy he advocated had not been carried out, the least they could expect was ample time for the consideration of the proposal which had been submitted to them to-night. He thought that if the views of the right honourable Baronet (Sir R. Peel) had undergone so complete a change, he would best consult his own character, and that of the House, by allowing ample opportunity for the expression of public opinion on this question. He considered that the noble Lord opposite, in producing his letters, had paid the first instalment of that debt of gratitude he owed to his Sovereign, by at once vindicating his position before that House and the country. It had been intimated that those with whom he (Mr. Newdegate) acted were about to stir the passions of the people on this question; and he must say he thought that that observation did not come with very good grace from the hon. member for Finsbury. That hon. gentleman had challenged hon. members on that side to extend the suffrage; and he would say, that if the people of this country were exposed to the oppressive effects of foreign competition, and to the heavy burdens to which they were now subjected, it might be necessary seriously to consider the propriety of extending the suffrage much lower than it was at present, and he did not shrink from expressing such an opinion.

Mr. WAKLEY said, that the hon. gentleman seemed, from some of his observations, to suppose that he (Mr. Wakley) was one of the Anti-Corn-law League advocates. He could assure the hon. member that he had only attended one meeting, and that a parish meeting, on the subject of the Corn-laws. He hoped this statement would not be deemed offensive by hon. members connected with the Anti-Corn-law League, for he was deeply sensible of the great services they had rendered to the country.

Mr. NEWDEGATE explained.

Colonel T. WOOD said he believed the proposition of the right hon. Baronet, the First Lord of the Treasury, would have a tendency to remove from the arena of politics a question which now divided the two great interests of the country—the agricultural and manufacturing classes, whose interests were in reality identical. He therefore felt it his duty to give his cordial and hearty support to the propositions of the right hon. Baronet, who, he believed, was actuated by the most patriotic motives. He would, at all hazards, give the right hon. gentleman his most hearty and unqualified support.

Lord NEWPORT said, he considered that those hon. members who intended to support the policy enunciated by the right hon. Baronet (Sir R. Peel) to-night, contrary to their own conscientious convictions, and the actual or implied pledges they had given to their constituents, would be guilty of a great dereliction of duty. With reference to one remark which had been made, he would observe that no other appeal than a constitutional appeal to the country was contemplated by those hon. gentlemen who entertained similar opinions with himself. (Hear, hear.) He must say, that he did not think the right hon. Baronet was justified in bringing forward such a measure as he had propounded that night without appealing to the country, and taking the sense of the constituencies on the question.

Mr. AGLIHBY regretted that this subject had been treated as a class question. Some hon. gentlemen on the other side spoke as if they were the only persons

who cared for the agricultural interest; but since the propriety of abolishing the Corn-laws was mooted in 1832 he had known many hon. members who were not only unconnected with commerce or manufactures, but who derived their subsistence entirely from landed property, who were the strenuous and consistent advocates of a repeal of those laws. He believed that the gentlemen connected with the Anti-Corn-law League had, by reason and argument, made many converts to the same opinions, even among the county constituencies; and he believed that, a few years hence, the conduct of those gentlemen would receive the approbation it so justly merited. If the right hon. Baronet (Sir R. Peel) had treated this as a class question, he should have felt it his duty to oppose his proposition; but regarding the measure of the right hon. gentleman as one great step in the course which he (Mr. Agliohby) believed it was essential to pursue, in order to promote the best interests of the country, he begged to tender the right hon. Baronet his most cordial and hearty thanks, and he believed a similar feeling would be entertained by a large mass of the people, even in the agricultural districts. He (Mr. Agliohby) had always advocated a repeal of the Malt-tax; but, under existing circumstances, it might be premature to ask the right hon. Baronet to consider that subject, and he would not do so. He would, however, venture to express a hope that before many years elapsed that tax might be repealed, for he believed such a step would be most beneficial to the labouring classes. He would only add, that he cordially approved of the general scope of the right hon. Baronet's measure, so far as he was able to judge of it, though, without further consideration, he would not pledge himself to all its details.

Mr. G. BANKES said, that some hon. gentlemen had stated that they did not fear the result of an appeal to the country on this subject; and he understood the right hon. Baronet (Sir R. Peel) to say that this was a question which must be decided by the feeling of the country. Then, why not take the only legitimate means of ascertaining what the feeling of the country was? He would say to those hon. gentlemen who expressed so much confidence in the result of an appeal to the constituencies—"Join with us in facilitating that appeal, which we are most desirous of making, and by the issue of which we are content to abide." His right honourable friend (Sir Robert Peel)—for, after the kind manner in which the right honourable gentleman had alluded to his observations the other night, he thought he was justified in using that term—had said that he would convince him that this scheme gave due attention to the little interests of the country. He (Mr. Bankes) would ask what provision was made in this scheme for maintaining the interests of the farmers in general, and, above all, of the little farmers of this kingdom? The compensation offered to them was relief from highway-rates, and the payment of a portion of the medical officers, auditors, and schoolmasters. What relief did the right hon. Baronet suppose would be given by such a measure as this? The hon. gent. who had just addressed the House had said that those who approved of this bill were not confined to the mercantile classes, but they included many landowners. And why? Because they would not be the sufferers. The sufferers would be those who held under the great landowners—the tenant-farmers. A great landowner might exist, and even receive large returns from his property, without any tenants at all. By employing balliffs, who were much cheaper than tenants, he would obtain the same return that he received now; but the effect would be that the whole class of tenant-farmers would be swept away. He contended that the relief the right hon. Baronet professed to afford to the tenant-farmers as a compensation for the injury which, it was acknowledged, would be inflicted upon that class by the proposed measure, was very trifling indeed. He found from a return which he held in his hand, that the half-yearly expense of criminal prosecutions in the county of Dorset was £377 0s. 2d. And this was one of the burdens from which the tenant-farmers were to be relieved. Supposing that it were desirable that the trifling relief proposed should be given, still the agricultural interest had a right to complain that it was introduced into such a vast measure as the present. It was called a compromise and a compensation. Those were terms which the agricultural interest repudiated. They only defended protection because they believed it to be consistent with the welfare of the country, and not because they looked upon it as a class right. The estimates were being increased, not for the security of their corn fields, but to protect the Oregon territory, and the sources of commercial prosperity, in which he admitted the agriculturists felt as much interest as the manufacturing part of the community; and if the manufacturers knew their own interest they would see that it consisted in preserving that national industry which brought the agriculturists as customers to them in the home market. (Hear, hear, hear.) It might be right to correct the Poor Laws, which were extremely defective, to place the expenses of the highways and criminal prosecutions under a better arrangement; but, to mix them up with a measure of this kind was, however unintentional, something like a degradation to the agricultural interest, as if they were to be compensated by so petty a consideration. If they were to be deprived of protection, let it be on known and intelligible grounds, and he complained that in the measure introduced these grounds were not fairly stated, and the agriculturists were placed in an invidious manner before the public. Again, he said, adopting the words of his right hon. friend, "This is a question which must be settled by the voice of the nation;" and, as that voice was not heard in that house, in reference to this question, he called on his right hon. friend to appeal to it.

Mr. GREENE (the Chairman of the Committee) then reported progress, and it was moved and agreed to, that the House resolve again into the same Committee, on Monday, the 9th of February.

The House adjourned at 12 o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

HER MAJESTY'S ANSWER TO THE ADDRESS.—The LORD CHANCELLOR said he had received her Majesty's most gracious reply to the Address, as follows:—"I receive with satisfaction your loyal and dutiful Address, and rely with confidence on your constant desire to co-operate with me in my endeavour to promote the happiness of my people."

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S EXPLANATION.

After replying to some questions from the Duke of Richmond, the Duke of WELLINGTON gave the following explanation of the course he had adopted before and after the late Ministerial crisis. He said:—"My Lords, when the accounts were received from Ireland, and from different parts of Great Britain, of the state of the potato crops, in the course of last autumn, and of the inconvenience likely to result from that state in different parts of the country, my right hon. friend at the head of her Majesty's Government considered it his duty to call together his colleagues, in order to consider of the reports which were sent to him. Accordingly, he did so; he laid those reports before his colleagues, and made to them certain propositions for the adoption of measures which he considered it necessary that her Majesty's Government should adopt either to avoid or to limit the evils likely, in his opinion, to occur in consequence of those misfortunes. One of the measures suggested by my right hon. friend was, that her Majesty's servants should recommend to her Majesty an Order in Council to suspend the operation of the existing Corn-law, so as to open the ports for the admission of corn duty free. My Lords, it is not necessary that I should discuss the motives stated, or the grounds upon which this recommendation was founded; but, however, I was one of those who considered this measure not necessary to be adopted at that time. I considered that the misfortune that had occurred, and which undoubtedly, had the effect of depriving millions, I may say, of a large part of the provision made for their food for the year—that the misfortune was not exactly a deficiency of food. Millions, it is true, had been deprived of their food, but still there was no deficiency of food, according to all accounts—no deficiency of food in the country. That which was required, in my opinion, was, that arrangements should be made, as had been made heretofore, for finding the means of employment for the poor, and for finding the means of rewarding them for their employment, and giving them food. (Hear, hear.) My Lords, besides, it appeared to me that in the provisions of the existing Corn-law, if it was desirable that the ports should be opened, the provisions of that law itself would provide for that measure. ("Hear, hear," from the Duke of Richmond.) As soon as ever the price of any particular article of grain should rise, and reach to such an amount as it would appear there was not sufficient for the wants of the country, the law has provided that such grain should be admitted at a nominal duty. Under these circumstances, it appeared to me to be unnecessary to suspend the law, and, upon that ground, I was one of those who objected to that proposition. At the same time, and I was most anxious for it, the Government unanimously proceeded to adopt all the measures to form a Commission in Ireland, and to instruct that commission with regard to the measures to be adopted for giving employment to the people, for procuring food for them in ordinary payment of that employment, and all those measures which upon former occasions had been found so beneficial and so effectual. My Lords, I believe that all these measures have been adopted. They are not new to the public servants of this country; they have been effectually adopted; and it is to be hoped that the great inconvenience apprehended as the result of this misfortune will be avoided. My Lords, in the course of the discussions upon this measure, it certainly was intimated that the suspension of the Corn-law must render the renewal of it very difficult; and it certainly was intimated that it might be necessary to make an essential alteration of it. Subsequently, my Lords, when the instructions were agreed upon to be given to these Commissioners established in Ireland, as I before stated to your Lordships, my right hon. friend intimated his opinion of the absolute necessity of making an essential alteration in the Corn-law. I believe everybody admitted that some alteration was necessary—that an alteration upon certain points was necessary. I think there is no doubt about that. That was admitted by all. (Hear, hear.) But in the opinion of my right hon. friend it was necessary to make an essential alteration in the existing Corn-law. Many members of the Cabinet objected to the suggested alterations, and there was a strong difference of opinion upon the subject. As for my part, my Lords, I certainly was of opinion that it was desirable to avoid making any alteration—any essential alteration—in the Corn-law; but, my Lords, I confess that, in my individual position, I considered an union of opinion in the Cabinet as essential to the safety of the Government itself. Having served England now for about fifty years, in high public stations, I consider it my duty, upon all occasions, to endeavour to promote its service; and I did everything in my power to reconcile the differences of opinion among my colleagues, and to preserve in union a Government which enjoyed the confidence of the Sovereign, of the public, which has served the public so steadily, and enjoyed the confidence of both Houses of Parliament. I considered it my duty to make every effort to preserve union in the Cabinet, to reconcile differences of opinion, as the best service I could render to the Govern-

ment, in the circumstances in which I was placed, and in which the Cabinet was placed upon this subject. My Lords, unfortunately, in these efforts I did not succeed; and the result was, a determination upon the part of my right honourable friend that he would submit to her Majesty the resignation of his office, and that he would recommend to her Majesty to endeavour to form another Government. My Lords, this course was adopted after a discussion whether it was most advisable that he should come down to Parliament, and make his proposition for an alteration in the Corn-law, having a divided Cabinet, in which the majority were against the proposition, or whether it was not best, and most for the interest and convenience of her Majesty, that he should proceed at once, and intimate to her the position in which he stood, and express his desire that her Majesty would permit him to resign his office, and that her Majesty would form another Government. That course was discussed. I certainly was one who thought it desirable he should resign his office before going to Parliament with a divided Cabinet. I believe all the Cabinet were of the same opinion. I was of that opinion, and I know others were; and accordingly my right honourable friend took that course; he waited upon her Majesty, informed her of the situation in which he found himself, and recommended to her Majesty to form another Administration. Her Majesty sent for a noble Lord, and that noble Lord, I understand—indeed I know—did make an endeavour to form an Administration. That endeavour did not succeed. Her Majesty then thought proper to write to my right honourable friend, to desire him to resume his situation, which he still held, until another Administration was formed. My right honourable friend wrote to me—I was in the country at the time—and informed me he had been sent for, and that her Majesty having desired him to resume his situation, he had determined, happen what might, if alone, he would enable her Majesty, as her Minister, to meet her Parliament. My Lords, I highly applauded the course taken by my right honourable friend on that occasion, and I determined that I, for one, would stand by him. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) I did so because I felt it to be my duty to the Crown to endeavour to be of service, and I did think the formation of a Government, in which her Majesty would have confidence, was infinitely of greater importance than any opinion of any individual on the Corn-law or any other law. (Laughter.) My Lords, that moment my right honourable friend wrote to me, and desired me to attend a meeting of the Cabinet that evening, which I did. I applauded the conduct of my right honourable friend. I was delighted with it. It was precisely the course which I would have followed myself under similar circumstances, and I accordingly determined that I would stand by him. My Lords, at the same time that I did this I knew well the position in which my right honourable friend stood in relation to the Corn-law. I knew well, that in consequence of his having resigned his office into her Majesty's hands, because he could not prevail upon his Cabinet to support him in the material alteration of the Corn-law which he considered necessary, those who were employed to form a Government must have had a knowledge of the particular circumstances under which my right honourable friend had resumed his office, and, my Lords, how could my right honourable friend, under these circumstances, go into the House of Commons and again defend the Corn-laws, as he had done only in the preceding July? (Loud cries of "hear, hear" from the cross benches.) How could he go into Parliament and defend the Corn-law against those gentlemen who were informed that his opinions on the subject had been altered, and who, of course, would have reproached him with a fresh alteration of opinion in going down to support the existing law? I knew well, therefore, that when I told my right honourable friend that I would stand by him in the resumption of his government, that, in doing so, I must be a party in the proposition for a material alteration of the Corn-law. It could not be otherwise. I knew it, when I did it. I knew it. (Hear.) Thus, my Lords, so far I have accounted for my own conduct. And, my Lords, I wish your Lordships would have so far confidence in the position in which I stand as to rest assured for this evening that the proposition of my right honourable friend, although it will involve a material alteration of the Corn-law, will be a proposition satisfactory to the country, satisfactory to the friends of my right honourable friend, and one which will give such advantages to the landed interest as the landed interest have a right to expect in the general arrangements of the country. (Hear, hear.) My Lords, my right hon. friend is himself a great landed proprietor. His pursuits are those of agriculture—he is related in friendship and association with most of your Lordships, and it cannot be supposed that under such circumstances he would betray the interests of a body with which he is so united, and which possesses so great a stake in this country. (Hear.) No, my Lords, I venture to predict that your Lordships will be deceived when you hear what the proposition is which my right honourable friend has to bring forward, and your Lordships will then see whether or not he has betrayed his duty in recommending such a measure to you. But, at all events, whatever that information may be, I say, that, situated as I am in this country—rewarded as I have been by the Sovereign and people of England—I could not refuse to serve her Majesty in assisting to form a government, when I was called upon to enable her Majesty to meet her Parliament, in order to carry on the business of the country. On that ground, as it appears from my statement now to you, I claim from your Lordships an acquiescence in the principle which I lay down, namely, that I positively could not refuse serving my Sovereign when called upon to do so. (Hear, hear.) My Lords, I have no doubt when these measures come to be laid before you, that they will give satisfaction to your Lordships, neither have I any doubt that they will meet with general approbation from the country. (Hear.)—The Duke of BUCKINGHAM said, as the noble and gallant Duke had given their Lordships an account of the late movement in the Cabinet as far as he had been personally concerned, it was desirable that their Lordships should know from some noble Lord on the other side of the House why those who had been called upon by her Majesty to form a Government, on the resignation of the right hon. Baronet, the First Lord of the Treasury, had not succeeded in doing so. After having listened to his noble friend, the noble Duke who had just sat down, he should confess that the explanation given by his noble friend did not appear satisfactory to him. (Hear.) It appeared that the Government, as now constituted, had become almost entirely a Free-Trade Government, and he would wish to know, when the Government had found noble Lords in that House ready to come forward and form a Government on those principles, why they, professing an altered opinion on the subject of Free-Trade, were not ready to support and assist those noble Lords, in carrying out the principle which, for so many years, they had advocated with consistency and principle. That was a question which he thought the House had a right to have answered. (Hear, hear.) He could not but lament deeply to hear of the change of opinion which had taken place in the Government, recollecting, as he did, the principles which they had formerly professed. He only wished that the proposition which the right hon. Baronet, at the head of her Majesty's Government, was to bring forward, would, as the noble Duke had promised, prove satisfactory; but, for his own part, he could not bring himself to believe that it would be found so in that House, or by the agricultural interests of the country generally. Should his apprehensions be well founded, he, for one, would be ready to assist his noble friend at his right hand (the Duke of Richmond) in resisting any measure injurious to the agricultural interests, no matter by what Government it should be brought forward.—The Duke of WELLINGTON: I don't know what the meaning of a Free-Trade Government is. Will the noble Duke state what he means by a Free-Trade Government?—The Duke of BUCKINGHAM said that no doubt his noble and gallant friend was as much staggered at the accusation made against him of being a member of a Free-Trade Government, as he (the Duke of Buckingham) was to find his noble and gallant friend in a Cabinet approving of such principles. He could understand noble Lords opposite belonging to such a Government, because they had always professed such principles. Those noble Lords had been prepared to form a Government on Free Trade principles, but the noble Duke, and those with whom he acted, had turned out the Government of those noble Lords, on account of the principles which they professed with regard to the Corn-laws. (Hear, hear.) He could not help, therefore, feeling, when the Government of his noble friend, with whom he had acted in 1831, had since then so completely changed their opinions on this subject, that they were now, if not a Free-Trade Government, at least as nearly approaching that title as possible. (Hear, hear.)—The Marquis of LANSDOWN referred to Lord J. Russell's statement last week, for the reasons of the failure of the attempted Whig Cabinet. Although himself of opinion that a fixed duty would have been the most convenient settlement of the question, he thought that now a total abolition must take place, and this opinion he had stated to her Majesty. He trusted that the question would be finally put at rest, which could only be done by the conversion of noble Lords occupying the Ministerial benches.—The Duke of WELLINGTON here added to his statement that he had been asked, previous to the resumption of office by Sir R. Peel, if he was disposed to form part of a Government on the principle of maintaining the present Corn-law; to which he had answered that he was not.—The Earl of RADNOR ridiculed the conduct of the Government in raising the apprehension of famine. They met, they consulted, they disputed, they separated, and they left the people to take care of themselves. He denied that the landed interest bore any peculiar burdens.—The Duke of RICHMOND hoped that before any alteration in the Corn-law would be attempted an inquiry would be instituted on the subject of the peculiar burdens pressing on the land. He defied the Government to appeal to the country. The constituencies who placed Sir Robert Peel in office were against Free-Trade in 1841, and they were against it now. Protection, not to corn alone, but to every article of British industry, was the question which the country would have to decide.—Lord BEAUMONT said he was most anxious that an inquiry into the burdens affecting the landed interest should be made. Twelve millions of local taxation were paid by real property, while stock in trade, profits in trade, and funded property, were wholly exempt from these rates. By repealing the Corn-law he felt convinced that they would be forwarding the repeal of the Union with Ireland; and he had no doubt that the "conscientious conversions" effected by an agitating club would give rise to other agitating clubs, who would make every use of the argument that the great advantages which Ireland enjoyed from her connection with England had been removed.—The Earl of ABERDEEN thought he was bound to state that, when the Premier, in November last, proposed to open the ports, he gave to that proposal his cordial and unhesitating assent. He still entertained the opinion that he then held.

After these explanations, the House adjourned, at nine o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

NEW WRITS.—New writs were moved for Ripon, in the room of the Right Hon. T. B. C. Smith, now Master of the Rolls in Ireland; and for Lichfield, in the room of Lord Leveson, now Earl Granville.

THE QUEEN'S ANSWER TO THE ADDRESS.—The SPEAKER read the following answer from her Majesty to the Address presented by the House of Commons:—"I receive with satisfaction this loyal and dutiful Address, and I rely with confidence upon your constant support and co-operation in carrying out those measures most calculated to promote the welfare and happiness of my people."

THE WINDOW-TAX.—Lord DUNCAN gave notice that on the 20th of February he would move for a Committee of the whole House, to take into consideration the Window-tax, with a view to its repeal.

PUBLIC WORKS IN IRELAND.—After some discussion in Committee, the sum of £50,000 was voted for Public Works in Ireland.

LEGISLATION UPON RAILWAYS.

Sir R. PEEL moved for a Select Committee to consider the mode in which the House should deal with the railway bills proposed to be submitted to the House during the present session. He said:—Her Majesty's Government has felt it to be their duty to avail themselves of the earliest opportunity of calling the attention of the House to the number of railway plans which will probably be brought under the consideration of the House, and to the best mode of dealing in the present session with that great quantity of railway business. (Hear, hear.) The attention of the Government has been for some time past given to this subject; and they have collected all the information respecting it which they think likely to be advantageous to the House; but they have felt it to be their duty, in a matter affecting so many private interests, to apply to the authority of this House, or at least to a Committee of the House, for the sanction of any proceedings to be adopted, rather than to bring forward on their own views any particular plan to meet the serious difficulties which must accompany railway legislation in the present session. (Hear, hear.) As the organ of the Government, it becomes my duty to propose to-day the appointment of a Select Committee to consider this subject; but, as I said before, her Majesty's Government is prepared immediately to lay before the Committee all that information which will enable it satisfactorily to determine the course which ought to be pursued. In the first instance, I will call the attention of the House to the number of railway bills passed in the last two years, and to the amount of capital which may be raised under them. In the year 1844, forty-eight railway bills received the sanction of the Legislature, authorising a levy of capital to be expended on railways to the amount of about £14,780,000. In 1845, not less than 118 railway bills received the sanction of the House, and a capital, I believe, of about £50,000,000 was proposed to be raised under them. It is generally calculated that it will require three years for the completion of a railway. I believe that, with respect to railways in this part of the United Kingdom, the period calculated on an average as necessary for their completion was three years. If, therefore, there should have been sanctioned by legislative enactments, within the last two years, the levy of a sum of, I believe, nearly £70,000,000 for the execution of railway lines, it would follow, that in the year 1846, about £23,000,000 would have to be applied, under existing railway bills, for the construction of railways during that year. In 1847, a further sum of £23,500,000 would have to be applied; and in 1848 there would have to be applied about £18,000,000. I, of course, deduct, in the last year (in respect to the bills which received the sanction of Parliament in 1844), the portions of money already expended in their first year, and the remainder, therefore, is the complement of the sum of £70,000,000, which I consider to be authorised by railway legislation in the years 1844 and 1845. There can be no doubt that the sum of £23,500,000 to be applied, in the course of one year, to railway enterprises, is a very large sum, constituting a very large drain on the available capital of the kingdom. (Hear.) But the sums I have mentioned are those which have been actually sanctioned by railway enactments. (Hear.) We now approach the consideration of the number of railway schemes which may probably be brought under the consideration of Parliament in the course of the present year, and whatever proportion of these railway plans may receive the sanction of Parliament, of course there will be, whilst the railway schemes already sanctioned by Parliament are in course of execution, a still larger drain on the application of the capital of the country than I have stated. (Hear.) The number of English railway plans which have been deposited at the Board of Trade at the time I now speak is 606, the number of Scotch railway plans so deposited is 121, and the number of Irish 88. There have been, therefore, deposited at the Board of Trade not less than 815 different railway plans. (Hear, hear.) Many of these, however, are rival schemes, and it may be calculated as improbable that Parliament will give its sanction to more than one of the competing lines. (Hear, hear.) In the case of several of them I believe that there is every reason to apprehend it to be probable that they cannot be proceeded with, either from non-compliance with the Standing Orders or from other causes. Nevertheless, it cannot be doubted that the number of railway plans which will be brought under the consideration of Parliament in the course of the present year will far exceed the number of railway schemes brought under its consideration at any former period. The railway schemes deposited at the Board of Trade involve the construction of 20,687 miles of new railway (hear, hear), and as far as a judgment can be formed from the public advertisements of the different companies, as well as from analogy, the total amount of expenditure contemplated by these railway schemes is not less than £350,000,000. (Hear, hear.) Making every deduction for those schemes which may not pass through the House, yet it is impossible that there can be any such application of capital in this country without a most material derangement of the money-markets of this country. (Hear, hear.) It becomes important, therefore, that at the earliest period of the session the House of Commons should consider what principles ought to guide its course with respect to railway legislation. (Hear, hear.) No one can feel more strongly than I do the objections which exist to interference with enterprise in this country. (Hear.) Call it speculation, if you will, but the general rule is that speculation or enterprise should be left perfectly unrestricted by Parliament. With respect to railways in this country, I for one feel most favourably disposed towards the application of British capital for the carrying out of enterprises so calculated to promote the convenience and general welfare of the country, and the question is, whether or not there be any sufficient reason for interfering at all with respect to these railway plans, and, if interference were thought desirable, on what principle should that interference proceed? (Hear, hear.) I must say, in the first place, after making every deduction from the total amount of railway plans deposited at the Board of Trade (viz., 815), contemplating the construction of about 20,000 miles of new railway, for those schemes which will not stand before a Committee of this House on account of non-compliance with the Standing Orders, or which may fail from other causes, I think that there is a certain prospect of having such a number of plans to consider, that it will be almost utterly impossible for the House of Commons, consistently with the discharge of its other functions, to devote that proper consideration to them which they deserve. We know how severe was the pressure last year. (Hear, hear.) I believe that in the present year it will be much greater. It might be said that this alone would not be conclusive on this point, for if the House could not dispose of the business, it would be forced by necessity to consider the appointment of some other tribunal that could. (Hear, hear.) But I think that it is a grave question, whether or not we ought to permit or encourage so great an application of capital towards these railway schemes; whether or not that will be consistent with public advantage, and whether it will really conduce to the satisfactory carrying on of railway enterprises? (Hear, hear.) As I said before, I am willing to admit that the application of British capital to British railways in preference to foreign schemes is to be encouraged rather than otherwise; but is it advantageous to the promotion of sound railway enterprise, that such enormous capital should at once be applied to it? I doubt it even for the purpose of sound railway enterprise itself. (Hear, hear, hear.) I believe it to be probable, in consequence of severe competition, that there will be a great and extraordinary demand for labour, and a rise in the price of the materials essential for the completion of railways. I believe that the estimate will be far exceeded, and that in many cases they would be found to be utterly delusive. (Hear, hear.) If interference were proposed with respect to those railway plans which are about to be proceeded with under existing acts of Legislature, there might be grave objections to such a proceeding; but, with regard to every new plan, the intervention of Parliament is called for, and it is for Parliament, therefore, to determine whether it will grant its sanction. It is not a mere abstention from interference on the part of Parliament which is desired, but the direct sanction and encouragement of the Legislature is required. I doubt if 500 or 600 railway schemes, or perhaps treble the amount that was under consideration last year, were to be pressed forward this year, whether the power of this House would enable it to make satisfactory inquiry into the merits of each scheme. I more doubt whether it would be for the public advantage to encourage so sudden and extraordinary a demand for labour, so great an application of capital to one species of industry and its consequent diversion from others. (Hear, hear.) But this, as I said before, is a matter which the Government feel had infinitely better be settled by a Parliamentary decision, and that a Parliamentary Committee, composed of men whose opinions are entitled to the greatest weight and authority, should receive the information which the Government has collected, and consider any plan by which our future proceedings should be regulated. Her Majesty's Government have a map prepared, and this will be laid before the committee, showing the extent and direction of the lines. The different plans have been classified. All those which refer to the completion of existing lines—I mean, for instance, where a line between the metropolis and a distant part of the country is now incomplete, from a part not being yet formed—are classified under one head. Under another are classified the railways which appear to the Government to afford the greatest facilities to parts of the country which stand most in need of them. Another classification comprehended those lines which give facility for internal defence—coast lines, for instance. This classification will spare the committee, on its appointment, much of the labour which they necessarily must have incurred if no previous preparation had been made. I trust, therefore, that the House will approve of the proposal with which I conclude.—That a select committee should be appointed for the purpose of considering the mode in which the House shall deal with the railways proposed to be submitted to the House during the present Session. I abstain from entering into many questions which might arise out of the Standing Orders, &c.; because I trust that, by leaving the matter to the committee, reports may be made from time to time by which the decision of the House will be mainly guided. A desultory conversation ensued between several hon. members, some of whom stated objections to the committee, and others suggested the appointment of another tribunal to adjudicate upon the merits of railways.—Mr. HUDSON said, the proposal was for a committee to consider, and that immediately, what schemes ought to be submitted to Parliament, and finally receive the sanction of the Legislature. First, however, the House ought to know whether the parties to the different schemes at the Board of Trade were prepared to proceed with their works, by making the necessary deposit of money; and next, whether they would be able to pass through the Standing Orders Committee. If they were not, the committee might recommend many projects, the parties to which were not prepared to carry them into execution. (Cheers.) The consequence would be that other railways, ready to be completed, and important to populous districts, would be most injuriously postponed. He would, therefore, suggest that, until the bills were prepared, the deposits lodged, and some progress made before the Standing Orders Committee, the Committee now to be appointed should not proceed to report to the House. He was not alarmed at the amount of money

required for the execution of railways; for, it was to be recollected that the money was not to go out of the country. One-fifth of the expense of all railway undertakings would in the first instance go into the pockets of the landowner. Very likely he would re-invest it in the undertaking which went near his property, or he might lay it out in mortgage, or place it in the funds. Next, a considerable portion would pass into the hands of iron merchants and others supplying the materials of construction. Much had been said of late respecting distress in Ireland, but surely the best way of obviating it was to find employment for the labouring poor. (Hear.) The right honourable gentleman as he (Mr. Hudson) had gathered, proposed to limit the amount of capital; but who was to determine that limit? Among others he was interested in a railway in his own district, the East Riding of Yorkshire; he was a promoter of 70 miles of it, and the district was in great want of a means of communication in order to carry the produce to market, especially if the right honourable Baronet were about to expose the farmers to new competitors. (Cheers.) What right had any one to refuse the parties the power of making a railway? (Hear.) The landowners were consenting, and the money for the purpose was ready. He could not understand how or why any such power was to be given to a committee. (Hear, hear.) It was very well to reply that the committee was only to report. He had not been long a member, but he had seen enough to know that although no report of a committee was paramount, it was idle for any individual member to attempt to contend against it. The great question was, whether the proposed lines were of national importance; next, were they laid out in such a manner as to give the utmost advantage to the district? If they were, no doubt the money would be forthcoming for their execution. (Cheers.) Long before they came to the Standing Order Committee, long before the deposits were paid up, many schemes would be cut down, and the others, in the course even of three years, might be accomplished without danger to the currency of the country. Of course he meant if capital were not applied largely to other purposes—if people did not lay it out in South American Bonds—or in the purchase of foreign corn, as was suggested to him. (Cheers and laughter.) He did not, indeed, wonder at some alarm for the derangement of the currency of the country, if there were to be large importations of foreign grain. (Cheers.) In that case capitalists must button up their pockets and patiently await the event. It was the duty of the House to apply itself carefully to the consideration of the measures in order that it might be competent to deal with them, and to deal with them in a satisfactory way. No doubt there were some defects in the tribunals of last session; he had himself thought he had reason to complain of some of their decisions, but, upon more calm reflection, he had become convinced that they were honest, though they might not exactly suit his views. (Cheers.) He had, therefore, bowed with respect to the decisions of the House; and, as he was as largely interested in railways as most men, he was ready to abide by the ordinary tribunal. He had principally risen to suggest that, until the House knew the period when parties would be ready to proceed with their bills, it was useless for the committee to commence its inquiries. He was sure that many plans had been thrown into the Board of Trade with which it was never intended to proceed. Many others would be rejected; and, on the whole, he thought that, without adopting the course recommended by the right honourable Baronet, the House was in a condition, as last year, to transact the business before it with satisfaction to the parties and the public.—Lord J. RUSSELL agreed with Mr. Hudson in thinking that if two towns were anxious to form a railway communication with each other, and the landowners on the line had no objection, and capitalists were ready to provide for the necessary expenditure, it would be a strong interference of Parliament to say that such a communication should not be established. If it were true that the carrying of these railway schemes into execution, was calculated to derange the monetary circulation of the country, then the First Lord of the Treasury or the Chancellor of the Exchequer ought to state what amount of derangement they apprehended, and what limitation they intended to place upon the amount of capital to be expended. The consideration of the latter point was too important to be referred to any committee, especially as it was well known that Parliament had never interfered to restrain the application of British capital to public works in Germany, France, and South America. If Government was determined to persevere with this committee, he hoped that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be a member of it, and that he would state to the committee his opinion on the limit which he intended to fix on capital. The committee would then make its report to the House, and the House would then know how to decide upon it.—After some further discussion, the Earl of LINCOLN, on behalf of the Government, declared that it had made up its mind as to the limit which ought to be fixed to the amount of capital to be applied to Railroads in this session, and that those Members of the Government who were to serve on the committee would declare the opinion of the Government on that point, and on several others, to the committee.—The motion was ultimately agreed to, and the committee appointed.

MORNING SITTINGS ON WEDNESDAYS.—Several resolutions were agreed to, the result of which is, that the House will meet on Wednesdays at twelve, and sit till six.

The House adjourned at nine o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

Several petitions were presented upon the subject of the Corn-laws. NEW HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.—The Marquis of CLANRICARDE said, he presumed there could be no objection to the reappointment of the Committee of their Lordships' House, to inquire into the progress of the building of the new Houses of Parliament. He would, therefore, move the reappointment of the former Committee, with the addition of the name of the Earl of Ellenborough.—The motion was agreed to.

RAILWAY BUSINESS.—In answer to some questions from the Marquis of CLANRICARDE, the Earl of DALHOUSIE gave notice that on Thursday he would bring under their Lordships' consideration the mode in which it was advisable they should proceed with reference to the Railway Bills introduced into that House.

The Earl of CLANICARTY gave notice, that on Thursday, the 5th of February, he would move for the appointment of a select committee to inquire into the laws for the relief of the destitute and sick poor in Ireland.

Their Lordships then adjourned to Thursday.

THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE TARIFF.

The following Table presents in one view a statement of the changes which Sir Robert Peel, in his speech of Tuesday night, proposes to introduce into the Tariff as at present existing:—

DUTIES TO BE REPEALED.

LIST I.

CLASS I.—Articles of Food.		Present Rate of Duty.	
Animals living—			
Cattle	.. .. .	10s each	
Goats	.. .. .	1s each	
Kids	.. .. .	.. .. .
Lambs	.. .. .	2s each	
Bulls, Oxen, and Cows	.. .. .	£1, cows 10s	
Poultry	.. .. .	5 per cent	
Sheep	.. .. .	3s each	
Swine and Pigs	.. .. .	14s per cwt	
Bacon	.. .. .	8s per cwt	
Beef, fresh	.. .. .	.. .. .
Beef, salted	.. .. .	.. .. .
Crabapples	.. .. .	1d per gallon	
Plantain	.. .. .	8s per cwt	
Potatoes	.. .. .	2d per cwt	
Pork, salt	.. .. .	8s per cwt	
Pork, fresh	.. .. .	.. .. .
Vegetables, unenumerated	.. .. .	5 per cent	
CLASS 2.—Agricultural.			
Animals, living—			
Asses	.. .. .	2s 6d each	
Horses	.. .. .	20s each	
Mules	.. .. .	2s 6d each	
Hay	.. .. .	16s per load	
CLASS 3.—Manufactures.			
Woolen manufactures, not made up	.. .. .	15 per cent	
Cotton manufactures, not made up	.. .. .	10 per cent	
Linen ditto, unenumerated, not made up	.. .. .	15 per cent	
Hides, dressed	.. .. .	10 per cent	
Silk, thrown, dyed	.. .. .	2s per lb	
CLASS 4.—Miscellaneous.			
Bottles, stone, empty	.. .. .	2d per dozen	
Casts of busts	.. .. .	12s 6d per cwt	
Enamel	.. .. .	10s per lb	
Gelatine	.. .. .	12s per cwt	
Glue	.. .. .	1s per lb	
Ink, wrought	.. .. .	10s per cwt	
Ink, printer's	.. .. .	12s per cwt	
Lamp glass	.. .. .	5 per cwt	
Magna Grecia ware	.. .. .	2d per lb	
Manuscripts	.. .. .	1d each	
Maps and Charts	.. .. .	10 per cent	
Mattresses	.. .. .	5 per cent	
Medals, not gold or silver	.. .. .	.. .. .
Palmetto thatch manufactures	.. .. .	6d per dozen sheets	
Parliament	.. .. .	15 per cent	
Pens	.. .. .	10 per cent	
Telescopes	.. .. .	10 per cent	
Thread, unenumerated	.. .. .	1s per skin	
Vellum	.. .. .	.. .. .

DUTIES TO BE REDUCED.

CLASS I.—Articles of Food.		Present Rate of Duty.		Proposed Rate.	
Arrow Root		5s per cwt		2s 6d per cwt	
Beer	.. .. .	£2 per barrel		£1 per barrel	
Butter	.. .. .	£1 per cwt		10s per cwt	
Buckwheat	.. .. .	As Barley		1s per quarter	
Cassava Powder	.. .. .	5s per cwt		2s 6d per cwt	
Cheese	.. .. .	10s per cwt		5s per cwt	
Cider and Perry	.. .. .	£10 10s per tun		£3 5s per tun	
Citron preserved in salt	.. .. .	10 per cent		5 per cent	
Cucumbers preserved in salt	.. .. .	10 per cent		5 per cent	
Fish, cured	.. .. .	14s per cwt		1s per cwt	
Hams	.. .. .	14s per cwt		7s per cwt	
Hops	.. .. .	£4 10s per cwt		£2 5s per cwt	
Maize or Indian Corn	.. .. .	As Barley		1s per quarter	
Meal	.. .. .	.. .. .		6d per cwt	
Mustard Flour	.. .. .	12s per cwt		6s per cwt	
Pearl Barley	.. .. .	5s per cwt		2s 6d per cwt	
Rice	.. .. .	.. .. .		1s per cwt	
Rough and in the husk	.. .. .	7s per quarter		1s per quarter	

DUTIES TO BE REDUCED.—Continued.

CLASS 1.—Articles of Food.		Present Rate of Duty.		Proposed Rate.	
Sago		1s per cwt		6d per cwt	
Sausages	.. .. .	3d per lb		1d per lb	
Spirits, Foreign:—					
Brandy	.. .. .	£1 2s. 10d. per gallon		15s per gallon	
Geneva	.. .. .	.. .. .		.. .. .
Other Foreign Spirits	.. .. .	1s per cwt		6d per cwt	
Tapioea	.. .. .	10s per cwt		7s per cwt	
Tongues	.. .. .	.. .. .		.. .. .
CLASS 2.—Agricultural.					
Seeds, viz:—					
Canary	.. .. .	4s per bushel		5s per cwt	
Carraway	.. .. .	10s per cwt		5s	
Carrot	.. .. .	10s per cwt		5s	
Clover	.. .. .	10s per cwt		5s	
Leeks	.. .. .	41 per cwt		15s	
Mustard	.. .. .	1s 3d per bushel		1s 3d per cwt	
Onions	.. .. .	£1 per cwt		5s per cwt	
Unenumerated	.. .. .	10 per cent		5 per cent	
CLASS 3.—Manufactures.					
Boat Fronts		3s 6d } dozen {		1s 9d	
Large	.. .. .	5s 6d } pairs {		2s 9d	
Men's Boots and Shoes, and others in like proportion	.. .. .	14s and £1 8s per dozen pairs		7s and 14s	
Cotton Goods, made up	.. .. .	20 per cent		10 per cent	
Fabric, Beaver and Silk	.. .. .	2s 6d and 3s 6d		2s each	
Draw	.. .. .	5s per lb		5s per lb	
Chips	.. .. .	15s per dozen		10s per dozen	
Not exceeding 22 in.	.. .. .	10s per dozen		7s 6d	
Linen manufactures, rated	.. .. .	various rates		Half the present rates	
Thread and Pillow Lace	.. .. .	12s per cent		10 per cent	
Straw of Straw	.. .. .	7s 6d per lb		5s per lb	
Silk Manufactures	.. .. .	25 and 30 per cent		15 per cent	
Woolen Goods, made up	.. .. .	20 per cent		10 per cent	
CLASS 4.—Miscellaneous.					
Agates or Cornelians, manufactured or set		15 per cent		10 per cent	
Almond Paste	.. .. .	20 per cent		.. .. .
Amber manufactures	.. .. .	15 per cent		.. .. .
Beads	.. .. .	15 per cent		.. .. .
Bandstring Twist	.. .. .	5s per 12 knots		.. .. .
Bar Soap	.. .. .	5s per cwt		.. .. .
Blacking	.. .. .	21 per cwt		.. .. .
Brass manufactures	.. .. .	15 per cent		.. .. .
Brocade of gold and silver	.. .. .	20 per cent		.. .. .
Bronze manufactures	.. .. .	15 per cent		.. .. .
— powder	.. .. .	.. .. .		10 per cent	
Buttons, metal	.. .. .	15 per cent		various rates	
Candles	.. .. .	20 per cent		one half	
Carriages	.. .. .	25 per cent		10 per cent	
Casks, empty	.. .. .	25 per cent		.. .. .
Catlings	.. .. .	3s per gross		.. .. .
China, &c.	.. .. .	20 per cent		.. .. .
Clocks	.. .. .	20 per cent		.. .. .
Copper manufactures	.. .. .	15 per cent		.. .. .
Crayons	.. .. .	15 per cent		.. .. .
Crystal, cut	.. .. .	15 per cent		.. .. .
Gauze Thread	.. .. .	15 per cent		.. .. .
Hair manufactures	.. .. .	15 per cent		.. .. .
Harp Strings	.. .. .	20 per cent		.. .. .
Iron and Steel, wrought	.. .. .	15 per cent		.. .. .
Japan or lacquered Ware	.. .. .	15 per cent		.. .. .
Latten Wire	.. .. .	12s per cent		.. .. .
Lead Manufactures	.. .. .	15 per cent		.. .. .
Leather manufactures, unenumerated	.. .. .	15 per cent		.. .. .
Paint hangings	.. .. .	1s per square yard		2d	
— brown, made of old rope	.. .. .	.. .. .		3d	
— all other sorts, not otherwise charged	.. .. .	4d lb		4d	
— with duty	.. .. .	.. .. .		.. .. .
— millboard	.. .. .	£1 10s per cwt		£1 10s per cwt	
Pencils	.. .. .	15 per cent		.. .. .
— of slate	.. .. .	15 per cent		10 per cent	
Pewter manufactures	.. .. .	15 per cent		.. .. .
Pots, stone	.. .. .	20 per cent		10 per cent	
Silkworm gut	.. .. .	20 per cent		.. .. .
Skin or fur manufactures	.. .. .	20 per cent		.. .. .
Soap, hard	.. .. .	20s per cwt		14s	
— soft	.. .. .	20s per cwt		20s	
— Naples	.. .. .	56s per cwt		10 per cent	
Spa ware	.. .. .	15 per cent		1s 6d	
Tallow	.. .. .	3s 3d per cwt		10 per cent	
Tin manufactures	.. .. .	15 per cent		.. .. .
Tobacco pipes, clay	.. .. .	15 per cent		.. .. .
Turnery	.. .. .	15 per cent		.. .. .
Twine	.. .. .	10s per cwt		.. .. .
Varnish	.. .. .	15 per cent		.. .. .
Waxes and sealing-wax	.. .. .	15 per cent		.. .. .
Washing balls	.. .. .	6d per lb		20s per cwt	
Whipcord	.. .. .	6d per lb		10 per cent	
Wire, gilt and silver	.. .. .	12 per cent		.. .. .
Articles manufactured, unenumerated	.. .. .	20 per cent		.. .. .

SCHEDULE OF SILK DUTIES.

PRESENT RATES.

	Duty.	Range, per cent
Manufactures of silk, or of silk mixed with any other material the produce of Europe, viz.:—		
Silk or satin, plain, the lb.	11s	From 16 to 36 per cent
Silk, or, and at the option of the officers of Customs, for every £100 value, the lb. . .	25 per cent	
Silk, figured or brocade, the lb.	15s	21 to 43
or, and at the option of the officers of the Customs, for every £100 value, the lb.	30 per cent	
Gauze, plain, the lb.	17s	18 to 46
or, and at the option of the officers of the Customs, for every £100 value, the lb.	30 per cent	
Gauze, figured or brocade, the lb.	£1 7s 6d	31 to 49
or, and at the option of the officers of the Customs, for every £100 value, the lb.	30 per cent	
Crape, plain, the lb.	16s	43 to 50
or, and at the option of the officers of the Customs, for every £100 value, the lb.	30 per cent	
Crape, figured, the lb.	18s	18 per cent
or, and at the option of the officers of the Customs, for every £100 value, the lb.	30 per cent	
Velvet, plain, the lb.	£1 2s	34 to 50
or, and at the option of the officers of the Customs, for every £100 value, the lb.	30 per cent	
Velvet, figured, the lb.	£1 7s 6d	30 to 45
or, and at the option of the officers of the Customs, for every £100 value . .	30 per cent	
ribbons embossed or figured with Velvet, the lb.	17s	23 to 29
or, and at the option of the officers of the Customs, for every £100 value . .	30 per cent	
and further, if mixed with gold, silver, or any other metals in addition to the above rates, when the duty is not charged according to the value the lb.	10s	
Fancy Silk Net, or Tricot the lb.	£1 4s	36 to 78
Plain Silk Lace, or Net, called Tulle, the square yard	1s 4d	No quotations
Manufactures of silk, or of silk mixed with any other material, not particularly enumerated, or otherwise charged with duty, for every £100 value	30 per cent	
Millinery of silk, or of which the greater part of the material is silk, viz.:—		
Turbans or caps, each	15s	About 157 per cent
Hats or bonnets, each	£1 5s	145 "
Dresses, each	£2 10s.	52 "
or, and at the option of the officers of Customs, for every £100 value	40 per cent.	
Manufactures of silk, or of silk and any other material, and articles of the same, wholly or in part made up not particularly enumerated or otherwise charged with duty, for every £100 value	30 per cent.	